

THE

Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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CONTENTS.

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS: | The National Celebration of the Scott Centenary | 637 |
| Spiritual Heroism and Worldly Wisdom | The Payment of Fees in Sectarian Schools | 637 |
| Eccliaistical Notes | The Education Act | 639 |
| RELIGIOUS AND DENOMINATIONAL NEWS: | Court, Official, and Personal News | 639 |
| County Associations | Music | 639 |
| COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS: | Postscript | 639 |
| New College, London | LEADING ARTICLES: | |
| Spring-hill College | Summary | 640 |
| Western College | The Ballot Debate | 640 |
| Tettenhall Proprietary College | The Financial Policy of M. Thiers | 641 |
| Silcockes Congregational School | How We are Growing | 641 |
| Airedale College | Detached Notes | 641 |
| CORRESPONDENCE: | Imperial Parliament | 642 |
| The University Tests Act | Foreign and Colonial | 644 |
| Republicanism in England | Foreign Miscellany | 644 |
| A German View of the Established Church | LITERATURE: | |
| Missions to China | The Martyrs and Apostles | 645 |
| Storing a Proportion of Income for Religious and Charitable Uses | Heroes of the Home | 646 |
| | Brief Notices | 646 |
| | Miscellaneous | 648 |
| | Gleanings | 649 |

Eccliaistical Affairs.

SPIRITUAL HEROISM AND WORLDLY WISDOM.

THE letter to the Bishop of London, signed by the two senior canons of St. Paul's Cathedral, Canons Gregory and Liddon, which is a formal reply to the previous letter of the right rev. prelate to his clergy, urging obedience to the recent judgment of the Privy Council in the case of *Hebbert v. Purchas*, is a document of gravest significance. It expresses not merely their personal feelings and decision, but avowedly represents the views of many of their clerical brethren in the diocese of London. The gist of it is that these rev. gentlemen have made up their minds that they cannot obey the judgment of the Privy Council—so far at least as relates to the consecration of the elements "before the holy table," without indirectly, and under existing circumstances, "casting a slight upon a portion of the revelation of Christ." "It remains to pray your lordship," say they, "that as we both propose to continue to say the Prayer of Consecration 'while standing before the table,' we may both be included in any proceedings which, in the exercise of your coercive jurisdiction, you may think it your duty to sanction. We prayer further that the case may be raised in one of the civil courts of Westminster. In the impartiality of an ordinary English court of law, we should have entire confidence; although we are well aware that failure would necessarily entail severer penalties than any adjudged by the Judicial Committee."

This seems as if intended to bring matters to a crisis. It is a challenge thrown out to Episcopal authority. Indeed, it is justified as such. "It is very difficult," say the writers, "to determine the point at which the conscience of an individual Presbyterian cannot safely acquiesce in an Episcopal decision; but, as we are well assured, your lordship would admit that the canonical obedience which the clergy owe to their bishops has its limits *in foro conscientie*. There are times when a neglect of human, positive, local law may be obedience to a law which is moral, universal, divine." As to the authority of the Judicial Committee, *i.e.*, of the Queen in Council, the titular head of the Church, the two canons of St. Paul's Cathedral are much less deferential in their opposition. "The Final Civil Court is not a church synod, it does not speak to us in the name of the Church of England, its jurisdiction has never been for-

mally recognised by the collective Church. Its original purpose was to hear appeals in Admiralty and Colonial cases; it may or may not be composed of members of the Church, or of believers in Christianity; it is not presided over by judges who are continuously responsible for its decisions, but its President varies with every Ministry, and its members vary in each particular case at the discretion of the President."

Hence, in the matter of "standing before the table," Canons Gregory and Liddon decline to recognise the interpretation put upon church law by the Judicial Committee, and solemnly warn their Bishop that they will not obey his monitions. But, highly as we admire spiritual heroism, and brave, disinterested, and conscientious as we believe these cathedral dignitaries to be, we must acknowledge that there runs through their letter to the Bishop a savour of worldly wisdom. They offer their cheeks to the smiter—but they implore him not to be so ungenerous as to smite. They ask him to "stay the arm of persecution, by exercising the moral option which is an attribute of a chief pastor, and the legal option which the law secures [to him], and to allow this judgment, so far as [his] influence extends, to become a dead letter." They plead for this at great length, and with much eloquence. They found their plea on the interests of law itself; they enforce it by considerations of justice; they urge it on the ground of Christian truth; and they identify it with the cause of charity. On the whole, they have placed the Bishop of London in an awkward and trying position of responsibility. Here we are, they say in effect, avowed recusants against your authority and that of the Court you are bound to wield; strike as you will, we cross your path that you may do it; but if you do it, be prepared to accept the odium which a chief pastor must needs encounter, when, in discharging an official duty, which in other cases he has laxly observed, he chooses to traverse the lines and the spirit of the law, of justice, of revealed truth, and of Christian charity. Now, we really don't think this quite so fair towards the bishop as it seems at first sight—certainly not so spiritually heroic in the canons as the first glance at their letter would lead one to imagine. When men deliberately announce their intention to put themselves outside the limits of law as a satisfaction to their consciences, they are not entitled to embrace beforehand the knees of their judge, and beseech him with tears to connive at their offence. The strength does not harmonise with the weakness.

What will the Bishop of London do? He is an accredited ecclesiastical representative of Her Majesty, bound to carry her decisions in council into effect. Of what use are these socially-exalted and highly-paid bishops, if whenever the sacerdotalism of the clerical order is checked, the clergy are to be encouraged to take the reins of administration into their own hands, and essay to become "a law unto themselves"? Have they tender consciences on this question of "the real presence"? Let them by all means do homage to their consciences by placing them in a position to act independently of law. They need to be told again and again that the Church to which they cling with such desperate tenacity cannot be at once free and established. There is no other service in the United Kingdom in which official insubordination can be paraded on the one hand, and con-

nived at on the other. It is somewhat novel even in the Church of England. But the present Archbishop of Canterbury appears to be satisfied with things as they are. Doubtless, he is wise, after the manner of men. On Monday night, when Lord Shaftesbury once more withdrew his Ecclesiastical Courts Bill, the most reverend prelate, from his place in the House of Lords, said of the Judicial Committee that "it was sometimes very unpopular, but he had observed that it was generally unpopular with those against whom it had decided." But he did not, as he might have done, effectually rebuke the non-administration of the law as interpreted by such decisions. The Earl of Shaftesbury was the only peer who pointed out the true conditions of the case:—"The ecclesiastical laws of the realm were the statute laws of the land, and people had a right to enjoy full access to and benefit from them. As to those gentlemen who were resisting the law, their course should be to do all they could to amend the law, or to amend the formation of the Judicial Committee; but they did neither one nor the other; they must obey the law as it stood, or secede from a Church to which they could not conform."

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THERE is a new thing under the heavens. The Bishop of Winchester, followed by several Conservatives, as referred to in our Summary of last week, has recognised the fact that it is a great hardship that Dissenters who object to the Church Service should be compelled, as the condition of the parishioner's right of interment, to have the service read over their dead. Earl Beauchamp's Bill, which gave rise to this remarkable admission, proposes to give facilities to Dissenters for the acquisition of new churchyards. The Dissenters have a prompt reply. They see no necessity for new churchyards. All they desire is the use of those already in existence. If such a Bill as Earl Beauchamp's were to pass, no one would take advantage of it. This Bill has been referred to a select committee of the House of Lords, before which, it may be supposed, some Nonconformists will be summoned. We recall some other select committees of that House on ecclesiastical questions. There was the Church-rate Committee, and where are Church-rates now? There was the University Tests Committee, and where are University Tests now? The fact is, that the House never wakes up to the appointment of a committee until there is great, serious, and immediate danger. Then, some compromise is proposed which is not accepted, and, in a year or two, all possibility of compromise is swept to the winds. We augur well for the future prospects of the Burials Bill now before the House of Commons—and is down for renewed consideration in committee this day—from what has now been done by the House of Lords.

Even the *John Bull*, a very uncompromising opponent, is now led to see that Dissenters are not in the position that they should be in with regard to the right of burial. Referring, last week, to Earl Beauchamp's Bill, our contemporary says:—

Earl Beauchamp's Burials Bill has been read a second time, and almost of necessity referred to a select committee. We believe that it affords the basis for a really satisfactory settlement of the question. The Dissenters in the country have a grievance, but to remedy it there is no necessity to inflict a tenfold greater one on Churchmen. What is needed is power to acquire burial places for Nonconformists, and though we share generally Lord Portman's objection to an increase of local taxation, we think Churchmen would have no objection to be rated if they were left in peaceful possession of churchyards and relieved from the necessity of saying the Burial Office over Nonconformists.

We have said that some Nonconformists will probably be summoned before this committee, and

we judge from the *Methodist Recorder* that the Wesleyans will not accept the offered compromise. It is often very difficult to foretell where the Wesleyans will be upon public questions, but upon this question they appear to be with us. The *Methodist Recorder* directs attention to the alarm of the bishops and the Tory peers at the prospect opened before them by Mr. Osborne Morgan's Bill. They, therefore, propose to throw a sop to the Dissenting Cerberus. The sudden graciousness and suavity of the Bishop of Winchester is referred to, and a final opinion given in the following terms:—

The Bishop of Winchester proposes what he considers a middle course—that of allowing the burial of Dissenters with no service at all in the churchyard, the service having been previously performed in their own places of worship. Anything, in short, to prevent the unhallowed voice of a Presbyterian or a Methodist being raised in prayer on the same spot where the privileged Churchman addresses the Almighty! Any absurdity, rather than tolerate an act which might seem to imply some kind of equality between the priest who acknowledges Queen Victoria as his spiritual head, and the minister who has only received his commission from the King of kings! We are as heartily desirous as the bishops can be to secure the parochial churchyards from profanation; but we cannot submit that our dead should either be consigned to poor-law cemeteries, or laid in their last resting-place in contemptuous silence.

We are afraid that the bishop will consider these to be very hard lines indeed. No doubt he thought that he was saying something handsome when he so frankly acknowledged the grievance that exists, but to have his overtures rejected like this—and by Wesleyans above all others!

The *English Independent* directed attention a week or two since to the rejection by the Wesleyans of a religious grant at Sierra Leone, lately referred to by Mr. McArthur in the House of Commons, but to the acceptance of such grants by the same body at Barbadoes and Demerara. Our contemporary inquired what instructions the Wesleyan Missionary Society issued to its agents upon this point. The *Watchman* replies that, so far as printed instructions go, there is no reference to these questions, and it then repels the accusation of inconsistency, by remarking that the Wesleyans do not profess exclusively voluntary principles. It adds—

Most Wesleyans in the colonies prefer disendowment, but so long as the colonial governments and legislatures tax Wesleyans, and apportion out of these taxes grants to the Anglican, Romish, and Presbyterian Churches, it will be difficult to induce them to forego their fair share. They have conscientious scruples against allowing their money to be spent upon Ritualistic and Popish Churches; and their only means of preventing this evil is by claiming it back for the use of their own Churches. There is a common-sense view of their claims and rights. Meanwhile, the voluntaries may comfort themselves in the assurance that the drain upon the colonial treasuries for religious purposes will soon be felt to be a burden so serious that the result will be universal disendowment, to which we have no objection.

Perhaps a more ingenious defence than this of concurrent endowment was never penned. It is a wonder that it was not thought of when it was proposed to endow the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland.

Another religious-equality battle has been won—a small one, but involving a great principle and an important precedent. Early in the morning of the 20th Mr. Trevelyan was able again to bring forward his motion on the Harrow School question, and to push it to a division. Our readers may recollect what was the question at issue. It was that the governing body of the school should not be restricted to members of the Established Church. The Public Schools Commissioners had decided that by the will of the founder of Harrow School they felt obliged to make this restriction. It was answered that no such restriction whatever was in the will. The House of Commons has adopted this view by a vote of 99 to 71, and Harrow is now an unsectarian school. The division list shows a great change of opinion on the part of some members. When Mr. Samuelson brought forward this question last year, in reference to Harrow as well as other schools, Mr. Gladstone stated that he thought the Commissioners had acted in the spirit of the Act. Mr. Winterbotham on a subsequent occasion, elicited the opinion of the Solicitor-General to the effect that Harrow and Winchester were considered to rank as denominational schools. Mr. Stevenson thereupon moved that it was inexpedient that the new statutes should require that members of the governing bodies should be members of the Church. The motion was then lost, but on the new Harrow statute being laid upon the table of the House of Commons this year Mr. Trevelyan gave the notice upon which the vote of the House has now been taken. We are glad to see that some who opposed a similar motion last year, have since been convinced of the justice of the claim that was then advanced. Amongst the supporters of Mr. Trevelyan were Mr. Gladstone and

Mr. Forster. The Liberal ranks were not broken through by one Liberal dissident.

An interesting correspondence, the points of which, however, are extremely difficult to seize upon, has been going on in the *Spectator* newspaper between Mr. Maurice, Mr. Baldwin Brown, Mr. Davies, Mr. Kelley, and others. Amongst the questions brought up has been the Fatherhood of God as respects the Church—a family for all nations, the holiness or unholiness of the State, and so on. We quote some admirable remarks from Mr. Brown's closing letter in the *Spectator* of last Saturday:—

It is because Independency is not a Church system that I cleave to it. I am not "a witness for unadulterated Congregationalism"; I have not employed the word, it is just the "ism" which I dread. A company of faithful men meeting for fellowship and work for Christ, and managing their own affairs, is not a sect. Any number of such companies meeting for brotherly counsel and co-operation is not a sect. It is the simplest and purest form in which the Christian life can nourish itself and act on society, and therefore I believe that the progress of the society will approximate all Church organisation to its simple form in time. The passage on our doctrinal trust-deeds does not affect me personally. Twenty-five years ago at Claylands, and quite recently in my new church in the Brixton-road, I have contended strenuously and successfully against the custom to which Mr. Llewellyn Davies so justly refers. Both at Claylands and Brixton "the form of sound words" is committed to the custody, not of the Lord Chancellor, but of the Church. I believe most firmly that "people cannot live on from generation to generation without trying to bind together the past and the future." But that I should be taxing your generosity too far, I would endeavour to show that we attach a very high value to this bond of history; that the Church of England at the Reformation created a new thing in history, debasing the noble idea which the Mediaeval Church strove to realise, and that we, the Nonconformists—not unknown to English history—are in the true line of the historical development of the Church.

Upwards of 2,000 of the clergy of the Irish Church have elected to accept a commutation of their incomes.

THE PURCHAS CASE.—The long-delayed motion in the Purchas judgment was delivered to the Rev. John Purchas late on Saturday. A correspondent informs us that there was not the least alteration in the services at St. James's Chapel, Brighton, on Sunday.—*Daily News*.

RITUALISTIC PARAPHERNALIA.—In the *Ecclesiastical Gazette* for June 13, is the following advertisement:—"Altar vessels, including chalices, patens, flagons, cruets, alms-dishes, pixes, holy oil stocks, sacramental spoons, ciboriums, monstrances, baptismal shells, fonts, and viaticums. A large stock always kept ready."

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL IN ACTION.—One of the first fruits of the abolition of tests at the University of Oxford was the conferment of the degree of Master of Arts on a member of the Jewish persuasion, and also on a Roman Catholic, on Thursday, that being the first degree day since the passing of the Act.

ECCLESIASTICAL PRECEDENCE.—The Congregational and Baptist bodies of South Australia are protesting against the regulations of ecclesiastical precedence, which, though the connection of Church and State is dissolved in these colonies, perpetuate invidious distinctions, and put the brand of inferiority on some in violation of the principle that to the Government all denominations stand on equal ground. The table is got up in Downing-street; and we believe that the Governors cannot alter it without reference to the home authorities.—*Tasmanian Independent*.

THE BURIAL QUESTION IN SCOTLAND.—Among ourselves the provisions of this measure are already practically in force, and no evil has ever been found to follow. There is no parish churchyard in Scotland, we presume, where the slightest difficulty would be placed in the way of any class of religionists saying or doing anything they pleased at the interment of their relatives, provided they did not create a breach of the peace; but with all this liberty no voice has been raised to say that either decency or the Church was in danger. In the House of Commons, however, it was urged with much vehemence that both were imperilled.—*Scotsman*.

THE ROMISH BISHOPS AND IRISH EDUCATION.—The Roman Catholic prelates have taken a bold and resolute step which will probably increase the difficulty of the State in dealing with the education question. At a meeting held on Thursday in the College of Maynooth, and presided over by Cardinal Cullen, they came to a unanimous resolution expressing deep concern at the movement recently commenced for the purpose of relieving the masters of National Schools from the condition of absolute dependence upon the will of the managers, and their liability to summary dismissal without any right of appeal or means of obtaining redress if they should feel aggrieved. An association has been formed and "congresses" held in order to bring the alleged wrongs of the teachers before the public, and enlist such an amount of sympathy as will induce the Legislature to improve their social status.—*Dublin Letter*.

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN, HOLBORN.—The Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, priest of the parish church of St. Alban the Martyr, Holborn, has issued an address to his parishioners for St. Alban's day, in which, with regard to his own obedience to the law, he says:—"I did not cease from the per-

formance of functions the obligation of which rested solely upon the law of Christ, and I made known publicly my intention not to cease from them. As a beneficed minister of the Establishment—an office from which I hope God will soon set me free, by dissolving that most sinful union of Church and State, i.e., of Christ and the world—I am not only Christ's priest to your souls, but also the Queen's servant, having certain things to do in a particular building, which, although it belongs to God and not to the Queen, yet she claims to have under her power. You must remember that although, in strictly spiritual things, the Queen has less authority over me than you, my dear children in Christ, have; yet in the temporal accidents of spiritual things, such as gold, silver, wood, brick, stone, and mortar, she has some definite jurisdiction." His appeal to the Privy Council was, he says, no acknowledgment of its right to control him, but of the nature of an appeal from one tyrant to a stronger one than he, in the hope that the stronger might be induced to liberate him, and failing in this he fell back upon the position which he holds, of a purely spiritual character, wholly exempt from any rights of civil courts, thus fulfilling his duty to God, while within the walls of St. Alban's church, the dominion usurped by the Queen, he remained silent. As to the jurisdiction of the bishop, it is, he says, of no force, when it opposes the Canons of the Church or the law of Christ, and adds, "You will therefore not be surprised at my telling you that we, your clergy, do not mean to obey, and, if God gives us grace to do so, will meet any punishment rather than obey."

Religious and Denominational News.

COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

The annual conference of the Lancashire and Cheshire Baptist Association was opened last Wednesday, in Claremont Chapel, Bolton. The proceedings begun with a prayer-meeting presided over by the Rev. D. Macgregor, Manchester, and in the afternoon the first business meeting was held, Mr. Lawrence Whittaker, Haslingden, presiding. The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his opening address, said that the advance of the Baptists in that county had been one of quite steady progress. In no one year had they had any extraordinary additions. The ground had been gained inch by inch, and they stood to-day, taking Lancashire and Yorkshire together, having something like 21,000 members against 1,700 sixty years ago. At no period of their history had they had such an increase as during the last ten years, and their progress would bear favourable comparison with any other denomination of late years. The Secretary (the Rev. J. L. Whitley) submitted an analysis of the statistics relating to the denomination, which showed that there were in connection with the association 57 churches, but of those only 51 had made returns. The clear gain to the association had been 290, which was 62 more than the last year's gain. There had been 341 baptisms, which was 180 fewer than last year. The excess on last year's total number of members was 298. As the Secretary has removed from the county, the Rev. Charles Williams, of Accrington, was appointed his successor. After some other business had been despatched, the subject of education was introduced. The Rev. W. R. SKERRY (Sabbden) moved:—

That the Lancashire and Cheshire Baptist Association, comprising fifty-seven churches, with which are connected 1,763 Sunday-school teachers and 16,791 scholars, while earnestly desirous that every child in the United Kingdom should receive an efficient day-school education, records its protest against the payment of fees of scholars attending denominational day-schools out of the funds of school boards, seeing that such payment involves the principle of concurrent endowment, and tends to prevent the formation of unsectarian schools for the education of children hitherto uneducated. And that copies of this resolution, signed by the Moderator, be forwarded to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and the Right Hon. W. E. Forster.

The Rev. F. H. ROBERTS (Liverpool) seconded the motion. The Rev. M. MACGREGOR (Manchester) said he had reason to know that the Church party in Manchester was using the most strenuous and persistent efforts, and holding out all sorts of inducements to coax children into Church schools. The Independents and the Presbyterians were almost nowhere. The Church party and the Roman Catholics had it all their own way. There was something excessively comical about the school board in Manchester. A very small minority, consisting of well-known Nonconformists, brought forward one resolution after another, and spoke as eloquently as they possibly could; but when it came to the vote they were nowhere, and the result was that Nonconformists were completely fettered. He had reason to know that the feeling among Nonconformists was so strong that it was rapidly approaching to indignation with the whole of the Education Bill as it at present stands. (Applause.) The Rev. Dr. GREEN said he did not feel that he could vote for the resolution, although, on the other hand, he would not vote against it. The Rev. C. WILLIAMS said that Mr. Forster had betrayed the Nonconformists in a way that no Conservative Minister would have dared to do. He had abused the confidence reposed in him by Nonconformists and the extreme members of the Liberal party, and now he turned round and talked about "the abstract principles of Nonconformity." Mr. Forster's objection was one which he ought to be the last man to urge. Though they could not agree on the abstract ques-

tion of secular education, yet still, seeing that they did agree upon the practical question of whether or not these denominational schools should be supported out of the funds at the disposal of the school board, he did entreat all of them to speak decidedly, and to say to Mr. Gladstone and to Mr. Forster: "This support of denominational schools has gone far enough; your bill should not have permitted it in any one instance, and if there be a clause that gives the authority, the sooner it is repealed the better." Whether it was repealed or not, as Nonconformists they called upon those gentlemen to respect their convictions, and did not intend to allow Mr. Gladstone to be able to say, as he was reported to have said to Mr. Richard, M.P. for Merthyr, that "he was not aware of the strong feelings of Nonconformists." Let them make the Government aware of it, and then when the Ministry became aware of the strong feelings of Nonconformists, he thought that, considering the experience of the last twelve months, they would pay more regard to those principles, and themselves come to the conclusion that there must be no more support given out of the education rates to denominational day-schools. (Applause.) The resolution was then put and carried, and the conference adjourned.

In the evening the annual public meeting in connection with the county mission was held in Claremont Chapel, Mr. G. T. Kemp (Rochdale) in the chair. The conference reassembled on Thursday morning. At half-past seven o'clock a prayer-meeting was held, at which the Rev. R. Littlehales, Briercliffe, presided. This was followed by public worship at half-past ten, when the Rev. Joseph Pywell, Stockport, preached the association sermon. The Rev. CHAS. WILLIAMS, Accrington, then read the annual circular letter, the subject of which was, "What our churches can do to prevent or destroy the sin of drunkenness," in the course of which he said that it was estimated that 10,000 members were lost to the Christian Church through drunkenness every year. Among these there had been ripe scholars, eloquent preachers, shrewd deacons, zealous Sunday-school teachers, of very many of whom "better things" were predicted. One way of preventing drunkenness was by the formation of Bands of Hope. Why should there not be in every Sunday school a Band of Hope connected with the association? He suggested also the desirability of amending the drinking customs of society. Drunkenness would not be destroyed till the drinking customs of the country should be modified, if not entirely changed, especially on occasions of funerals and weddings. At the afternoon sitting a vote of thanks was, on the motion of the Rev. A. MACLAREN, seconded by the Rev. B. MEYER, accorded to Mr. Williamson, and the following resolution, moved by Mr. MORGAN, Liverpool, and seconded by Dr. GREEN, was passed:—

That this association, representing fifty-seven Baptist churches in Lancashire and Cheshire, while recognising the duty of churches to use all moral influence to prevent drunkenness, hereby records its opinion in favour of legislation shortening the hours for the sale of intoxicating drinks on week-days, and of closing entirely on Sundays, believing that such legislation would materially contribute to the sobriety of the nation; and that a memorial be presented to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone and the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, signed by the Moderator, from this association.

In the evening the closing sermon was preached by the Rev. C. M. Birrell, Liverpool.

THE WESTERN AND DEVON ASSOCIATIONS.

The united triennial meetings of these associations were held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 19th–21st inst., at Torquay. As there were about seventy churches represented, the assembly of ministers and messengers was very large. On Monday evening an excellent sermon to the young was preached by the Rev. R. Lewis, of Plymouth, from Acts vii., the latter part of 58th verse; the subject was—Paul, a warning, an encouragement, and an example to the young. On Tuesday morning, at seven o'clock, there was a large gathering at the prayer-meeting, when an address was given by the Rev. R. James, of Yeovil. At half-past nine the ministers and messengers of the united associations met for business, the Rev. E. Edwards being chosen Moderator; and at eleven o'clock a most admirable sermon was preached by the Rev. F. Bosworth, M.A., of Exeter, from John i. 36, xix. 36, and Rev. v. 6. The subject announced by the preacher was—"The Apostle John, the acceptor of a Divine mission, the proclaimer of a Divine message, a recorder of Divine deeds, and a revealer of Divine glory." The ministers, messengers, and friends dined together, to the number of about 400, in the spacious schoolroom connected with the Baptist chapel. At half-past two the letters from the churches were read. These letters were, on the whole, of a most cheering and hopeful character. The numerical results in the case of Devon was a net increase of 179 members, or an average of 4½ per church; in the Western Association the net increase was 116, or 5 4-5ths per church. In both associations large sums had been raised for chapel and school building; the Sunday-schools generally are making decided progress; and altogether the Baptist denomination in the localities represented appears to be working vigorously and successfully.

In the evening, the association sermon was preached to a large congregation by the Rev. R. A. Griffin, of Weymouth, from John v. 23, and at the close the Lord's Supper was administered to a very full gathering of believers. On Wednesday morning, at seven o'clock, a prayer-meeting was held, when an address was delivered by the Rev. J. Rothery, of Bampton; and at ten o'clock the

ministers and messengers assembled for business, when the following resolutions of a public character were passed. It was proposed by the Rev. G. W. HUMPHREYS, and seconded by GEO. EDMONSTONE, Esq.:—

That this conference of ministers and messengers of the Devon and Western Associations of Baptist Churches, whilst believing that religious instruction and training are essential to a complete education, maintains that the religious teaching is not comprised within the functions of the State, and that money raised by rates and taxes ought not to be applied to support schools where denominational teaching is given, and most earnestly protests against the power conferred on school boards by Clause 25 of the Elementary Education Act, to pay fees to sectarian day-schools, regarding such payment as an insidious form of concurrent endowment, and a violation of the principle of religious equality.

On the motion of Mr. T. NICHOLSON, of Plymouth, seconded by the Rev. J. O. DELL, and supported by GEO. EDMONSTONE, Esq.:—

That this conference expresses its cordial sympathy with, and approval of the course taken by Edward Miall, M.P., in Parliament on the disestablishment question, and rejoices in the hope that the progress already made will stimulate the further efforts of himself and his coadjutors in the attainment of this object.

Proposed by the Rev. W. PAGE, seconded by Mr. WHITBY, of Bridgwater:—

That this conference regrets the postponement of legislation for the restriction of the liquor traffic; and in view of increasing inducements to drunkenness, appealing to the mass of the people, records its conviction of the immediate necessity for a law curtailing these facilities for evil.

At half-past eleven the business of the conference was postponed in order to make a presentation to the Rev. E. Webb, from the Devon Association, of which he has been secretary for upwards of twenty years. The proceedings excited a great amount of interest, the galleries of the chapel being completely filled with friends other than ministers and messengers, who wished to witness the presentation. The testimonial consisted of a purse containing 158*l.*, and a beautifully illuminated address as follows:—"Testimonial to Pastor E. Webb, of Tiverton. The ministers and messengers of the Devon Baptist Association met at Torquay, June 20, 1871, when they asked his acceptance of the accompanying purse, and desired to express their warm affection and profound regard for Pastor Edward Webb, and acknowledge, though they cannot repay, his wise, incessant, and devoted labours as secretary to this association for twenty years. Publicly presented at Torquay.—E. EDWARDS, Moderator; P. ADAMS, Treasurer." Mr. Webb very suitably acknowledged the gift, and addresses were delivered of a most gratifying character by the Rev. J. Aldis (of Plymouth), and the Rev. G. W. Humphreys (of Wellington), the secretary of the Western Association. At the dinner a vote of thanks to the friends at Torquay for their generous hospitality and excellent arrangements was proposed by the Rev. G. W. Humphreys, seconded by the Rev. E. Webb, and supported by the Rev. J. Aldis. In the evening a public meeting was held on behalf of the admirable evangelistic societies which are at work in connection with the two associations. P. Adams, Esq., of Plymouth, presided. The Rev. E. Webb presented the report and balance-sheet of the Devon, and the Rev. G. W. Humphreys the report and balance-sheet of the Western Evangelistic Society. In connection with both associations fourteen earnest Christian men are employed in the rural districts visiting from house to house, holding cottage and open-air services. The reports were of a deeply interesting and cheering nature. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. J. Aldis, O. Dell, and W. Page, and Mr. T. Nicholson. Thus closed a series of business meetings and public services which will afford stimulus and help to all who were privileged to be present.

HERTS AND BEDS.

The annual session of the Herts and Beds Baptist Association was held on the 14th of June, at Salem Chapel, Hitchin, Rev. J. Aldis, jun., moderator. The Rev. H. C. Leonard, M.A., was reappointed secretary. The annual sermon was preached by the Rev. D. Jones, B.A., of Brixton. About sixty dined in the schoolroom, which had been tastefully decorated by the ladies of the congregation, who also had given and provided the dinner. At the afternoon meeting the preface to a "Brief History of all the Associated Churches," shortly to be published, was read and approved. There are twenty-six churches now associated. It appeared that the total additions to the churches were larger than in any former year. This is partly to be attributed to the increase in the number of churches associated and partly to the unusually large number added to the first church at Luton, which reported the baptism of eighty-two persons. Each of the counties being provided with excellent county mission unions, no separate home mission work is attempted by this association. In the evening a public meeting was held, when addresses were delivered by the Moderator, by the Rev. H. Bradford, of Tring on "The Responsibilities of Church Membership," by the Rev. H. C. Leonard, M.A., of Boxmoor, on "Baptist Principles," and by the Rev. A. C. Gray, on Prayer and Work. Collections were made to defray expenses, the surplus to be divided between the Herts Union and the Beds Union. The following resolutions were passed:—

That this association rejoices that the question of the disestablishment of the State-Churches of England and Scotland has been introduced into the House of Commons, and received so encouraging a measure of support; tenders thanks to E. Miall, Esq., for the able manner in which he introduced it; and looks forward with confidence to the speedy triumph of the principle of religious equality.

That this association learns with great satisfaction that the House of Lords has passed the University Tests Bill, and thanks those gentlemen, in and out of Parliament, who, by

their scholarly attainments and able advocacy, have aided the cause of University reform.

That this association rejoices that the Burials Bill has passed through committee of the House of Commons, regarding it as the smallest measure of reform which Nonconformists can accept.

KENT AND SUSSEX.

The annual meetings of this Baptist association were held on Tuesday and Wednesday last, June 13th and 14th, at Cavendish Chapel, Ramsgate, the Rev. B. C. Etheridge being chosen moderator. The representatives of the twenty-eight churches comprising the association met for the despatch of business at twelve noon, on Thursday. At three p.m. the letters from the various churches were read by the delegates. Two new churches, viz., the infant churches at Eastbourne and Shoreham, were received into the association. The evening service, at seven p.m., was opened by the Rev. A. M'Kinley, of Chatham; and the Rev. J. Wilkins, of Brighton, preached. On Wednesday, at seven a.m., there was a prayer-meeting, at which the Rev. J. Jackson, of Sevenoaks, delivered an address on the "Blessing of Joseph." At eleven a.m. the service was opened by the Rev. A. Bax; and the Rev. J. H. Wood, of Sandhurst, preached the association sermon. The Rev. W. Barker, of Hastings, read the circular letter which he had prepared, on "The Condition and Duties of Baptist Churches in Kent and Sussex, with suggestions for their more complete union." A public dinner and tea, which were numerous attended, took place in the Congregational schoolroom. In the evening a large audience assembled at a public meeting on behalf of the County Home Mission; J. B. Flint, Esq., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. R. Shindler, of Eythorn; W. Sampson, of Folkestone; J. Drew, of Margate; and H. J. Bevis (Congregational), of Ramsgate. Some interesting particulars with regard to the work at Goudhurst were given by the Rev. J. J. Kendon; and this interesting series of meetings was wound up by a public supper in the Congregational schoolroom. Among the resolutions of public interest passed at the business meetings were the following:—

That, while this association desires to express its thorough approval of the general objects contemplated in the Elementary Education Act, and would gladly see those objects carried out to their fullest extent, it nevertheless regards with uncompromising hostility the provisions of that measure for aiding denominational schools out of funds provided by local taxation, and therefore feels called upon by the strongest sense of duty to resist the operations of the said Act in this direction, and to seek the earliest possible repeal of the objectionable clauses.

A resolution thanking Mr. Miall for his defence in the House of Commons of Free Church principles, was also carried.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

The annual services in connection with the Pembroke Baptist Association were held at Dinas Cross, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June the 6th and 7th. On Tuesday morning the ministers and delegates of the churches met in conference at Tabor Chapel, of which the Rev. G. H. Roberts is the minister. The Rev. T. E. Thomas, of Trehal, the chairman of the association for the year, presided. It was unanimously resolved that petitions should be sent to Parliament in favour of closing public-houses on Sunday, of the Ballot Bill of the Government, and of Mr. O. Morgan's Burial Bill; but in reference to this last, objection was taken to the necessity, according to the provisions of the bill, of application being made to the clergyman when a person was about to be buried, and the power given to the clergyman to fix the time of day for the burial to take place. The following resolution was also unanimously passed:—

That this association presents its hearty thanks to E. Miall, Esq., M.P., for his motion in reference to the Established Churches of Great Britain; and expresses its satisfaction at the spirit of the discussion that ensued upon it, and at the number that voted for the resolution. It calls upon the members of the churches of the association to exert their influence in creating and sustaining a just public opinion in favour of the dissolution of the union of Church and State—a union which, in their opinion, is productive of so much spiritual evil. And in view of the special injustice involved in the Establishment of the Church of England in Wales, where the great majority of the population are Nonconformists, this association expresses its hope that the Liberal members for Welsh constituencies will vote for Mr. Miall's motion if repeated in subsequent years.

The annual letter was read by the Rev. W. DAVIES, of Harmony, on the "Necessity of increased union among the churches." The public sermons were all very numerous attended. Sixteen Welsh sermons were preached; the Revs. D. Thomas, Angles, J. A. Parry, Liverpool, and J. W. Rowland, Glamorgan, had been specially invited to take part in the services with the ministers of the association. Dr. DAVIES, of Haverfordwest, preached the English sermon at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning.

The Rev. John James, late of the United Presbyterian Church, Wolverhampton, has accepted a unanimous call from the State-street Presbyterian Church, Albany, in New York State.

The Rev. Charles Stokes Carey, of Bungay, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Congregational Church at Leytonstone to become their pastor, and will enter upon his stated labours on the first Lord's-day in October.

ARRIVAL OF THE REV. DR. NISBET AT SAMOA.—Dr. Nisbet and his wife reached Samoa on the 20th of December last in good health, and was about to resume his labours at the Missionary Seminary. The following extract of minute has been received from Samoa:—"At a general meeting of the Samoan district committee (connected with the London Missionary Society), held at Matautu, in

Savaii, on the 10th of January, 1871, and four subsequent days. After a resolution had been recorded, expressing gratitude to God for the safe return of Mr. Nisbet to Samoa, and very cordially welcoming Mrs. Nisbet to the mission, the following resolution was passed:—"That the hearty thanks of this mission be presented to Mr. William Logan, of Glasgow, and other friends, and churches in Glasgow, for their liberal donation to our mission of the stereotyped edition of 2,000 copies of the 'Peep of Day,' prepared by the late Mrs. Nisbet."

NEW COLLEGE PREACHING STATION SOCIETY.—The fifth annual meeting of this society was held on Thursday, June 22, in the library of the college, Mr. C. E. B. Reed, M.A., in the chair. From the committee's report, read by the secretary (Mr. J. F. Lepine), it appeared that there are eleven village churches, some of them fifty or sixty miles from London, which are regularly supplied by this society. Nine of these are visited by the students every week, two of them are supplied once a month. The balance-sheet handed in by the treasurer (Mr. W. F. Adeney, M.A.) showed that the receipts for the year had been 61*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*; the expenditure, 55*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; the balance in hand for next year, 5*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* From the account given of the work of the year, it appeared that the usefulness of the society had been extended, one important part of its extension being in the evangelisation of one neighbourhood especially, where the Gospel had been comparatively unknown for more than thirty years. The society's plan, in the establishment of new positions, is to get one student selected by the people from a series of men who visit them, as superintendent. This superintendent pays a monthly visit to the church delivered to his charge, throws his energies into its general work, and arranges for the supply of the pulpit from his fellow-students for the remaining Sundays of the month. It has been only by special help, very kindly given during the past year, that the society's plans have been efficiently carried out. "The work presenting itself is increasing, the energy of the men is rising proportionately; we hope that those who have rendered us valuable assistance in the past year will still help us, and that others will kindly enable us to follow up and extend the society's work."

READING.—On Thursday, June 15, Carey Baptist Chapel was opened for Divine worship. The plan of the structure is rectangular, the interior dimensions being 44*ft.* 8*in.* by 56*ft.* The seats on the ground-floor will accommodate about 400 adults. There are galleries on three sides accommodating 180 persons, making with 70 free sittings, a total of 650 sittings. The total outlay, including the site, which is freehold, is about 3,100*l.*, and the contract for the building was 2,423*l.* The services of the day commenced with an early prayer-meeting. At eleven o'clock, the Rev. F. Tucker, B.A., of London, preached a sermon from Ephesians iii. 17, 19. In the afternoon at three o'clock the Rev. J. P. Chown, of Bradford, preached from John iv. 8. Owing to the very unpropitious state of the weather in the morning there was not a large attendance, but in the afternoon the edifice was crowded. At five o'clock about 400 sat down to tea in the West-street Hall, the tables being generously given by ladies. In the evening at six o'clock a public meeting was held in the chapel, when a large congregation assembled. The Mayor of Reading (Peter Spokes, Esq.) presided, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. C. M. Longhurst (the pastor), Mr. John Kidgell, who gave a brief history of the church and the circumstances which led to the erection of Carey Chapel, and the Revs. P. G. Scorey, R. Aikenhead, T. Brooks, T. C. Page, and J. P. Chown. Mr. P. Davies presented the balance-sheet. Up to the date of opening, about 1,840*l.* had been realised. On Sunday, June 18, sermons were preached by Professor Sheppard, of Chicago, and a lecture delivered on Monday evening by the same gentleman. The total receipts up to June 19 were nearly 2,000*l.* The Baptist Building Fund has granted a loan of 300*l.*, and two gentlemen of the congregation have lent each 100*l.* for three years free of interest, making a total, inclusive of money lent, 2,500*l.*

HUNTINGDON.—Three years ago Trinity Church was opened, after an expenditure had been incurred of about eleven thousand pounds. If success can ever justify such an outlay, it has surely been justified here. Not only have large accessions been made both to the congregations and the church, so that the spacious edifice is well filled every Sunday, and all the organisations connected with it are maintained in vigorous activity, but within the short space of three years the entire cost of the building has been defrayed. At the opening it was felt necessary to leave about £2000 undischarged for the present; but the church having it in view to erect two new village chapels at Great Staughton and Little Stukeley, they resolved in the first instance to set themselves free from all local encumbrance of debt. Stimulated by the generosity of Bateman Brown and Thomas Coote, Esqs., who offered, the first 1,500*l.*, and the other 200*l.*, towards the sum required, they have made strenuous efforts, and with such success that the whole sum was obtained before the services of the anniversary actually commenced. These services took place on Wednesday last, when a sermon was preached in the morning by the Rev. J. P. Chown, of Bradford. At the dinner which followed, Mr. Randall, the treasurer, gave a report of what had been done, stating that Mr. Millard, the pastor, had raised 171*l.* towards the amount realised. The chairman (Mr. Chas. Coote), Mr. Bateman Brown, Mr. N.

Goodman, Mr. T. Coote, Rev. J. H. Millard, and others made interesting speeches. Tea was provided in the schoolroom under the church, which was crowded in every part. The thanksgiving service was held in the chapel, the chair being occupied by B. Brown, Esq., who, in his opening remarks, said they were trying an experiment in having a strong parent church, with a number of branch churches in the destitute villages around them, the practice being to have the chapels under the same trust, so that they cannot secede unless they were willing to let them go, which they should not do unless they could support a minister of their own in comfort and respectability. The danger in this arose from their preconceived notions of church government, as they were liable to allow the villages to become semi-distinct, and break loose from the central church before they were self-supporting. The Rev. C. Clarke, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, formerly minister of the church, Mr. Neville Goodman, Mr. C. P. Tebbutt, and the Rev. J. P. Chown delivered addresses.

SALCOMBE.—The new Baptist Chapel, Salcombe, was opened on Thursday last, the foundation-stone being laid two years ago. The building is after the early gothic style, and is built of stone raised on the spot. The edifice is fifty-six feet long, thirty-six feet wide, twenty feet high on the inside to the plate of the roof, and thirty-two feet to the point of ceiling. The entire cost of the building is about 1125*l.*, and it will comfortably seat 300 persons. Provision has been made for erecting galleries when required. The chapel has a very light and airy appearance, and is, in addition to supplying a great want to the Baptists of Salcombe, a very great ornament to the town. Mr. W. Wills, of Dodbroke, is the builder. Although the weather was very unfavourable, yet the attendance in the morning was very good, the chapel being nearly full. The Rev. James Pugh, of London, read the chapter and engaged in prayer, the sermon being preached by the Rev. John Aldis, of Plymouth. After the morning service there was a public dinner in the Town Hall, at which about seventy persons partook. The dinner being over, and, after a few remarks from the pastor, the Rev. F. Pugh, Mr. Peter Adams, of Plymouth, the Rev. E. Edward, of Torquay, the Rev. J. Aldis, Mr. W. H. Balkwill, and the Rev. J. O'Dell gave expression to their sympathy and best wishes towards the success of the undertaking. In the afternoon the Rev. Evan Edwards preached. There was a public meeting in the evening, at which Mr. Peter Adams, of Plymouth, who laid the stone and had given 50*l.* to the new place of worship, presided. The chairman congratulated the friends on their success, and expressed his satisfaction with the way in which the money had been expended. The pastor, in a brief address, having acknowledged the disinterested and liberal help afforded by the church at Kingsbridge, thanked the gentlemen who had consented to act as trustees, and presented to them, on behalf of his late wife's mother, a complete solid silver communion service for the use of the church. Mr. Balkwill, on behalf of the trustees, acknowledged the gift. The Rev. J. O'Dell referred to the many difficulties the friends had overcome, and commended the spirit in which the work had been carried out. The Rev. R. Lewis, of Plymouth, expressed his admiration of the building, its proportions, its adaptation, and its cheerfulness, and proceeded to apply these points to purposes of spiritual instruction. He was followed by the Rev. James Pugh, of London, who spoke of the perseverance required in such a work, and exhorted the friends to make any sacrifice to avoid a debt. The chapel and the *etceteras* belonging thereto cost 1,125*l.*, 800*l.* of which is raised, and if the balance, 325*l.*, can be obtained within three months no debt will be incurred. Purely with the object of raising this sum, the pastor, who with his family gave 150*l.* when the stone was laid, will, we are told, give 162*l.* 10*s.* more, half the sum yet wanted, if the other half can be raised by the time stated.

SURREY CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY.—A large congregation assembled on Wednesday evening last to celebrate the eighty-eighth anniversary of Surrey Chapel. The proceedings commenced with tea, after which a public meeting was held in the chapel. The chair was taken by Count Andrew Bernstoff, son of the Prussian Ambassador, in the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and on the platform were the Revs. Newman Hall, De Kewer Williams, Foster, of Claylands-road Chapel, Drs. Randolph and Dickerson, Granger (assistant minister of Surrey Chapel), and Williams. Count Bernstoff, in opening the proceedings, referred to the interest he felt in Surrey Chapel, more especially as he had just read a little book entitled, "Surrey Chapel and its Institutions," which had afforded him considerable pleasure. There were different ideas as to what the Christian Church should be. Some said that the Church was an assemblage of saints; others that it was an institution to receive men and train them up in Christian virtues. To the latter belonged the Roman Church, and there were some among Protestants who shared the same views. Others there were who thought that the Church should be composed of living members in Christ. This view, however, had objections, because it was impossible to find perfection in the world, and it was likely to introduce hypocrisy into the Church. He (the chairman) thought that a combination of the two views was the right one, and that the object of the Christian Church was to be found in the individual effort put forth by each church to further the cause of the people as a whole. The

chairman then enumerated the various means for doing good in connection with Surrey Chapel, and expressed his opinion that the plan followed there was the right one. Mr. Webb read the report, from which it appeared that the Sunday-school in connection with the chapel contained 6,000 children, 450 teachers, and was maintained at an annual cost of 500*l.* The week-day schools contained 1,000 children, and cost 300*l.* each year. The Southwark Mission Hall, in which entertainments and concerts were also given, cost 250*l.* yearly. There was also an auxiliary society connected with the City Missionary Society, for which two missionaries were engaged. Besides the undertakings in connection with the chapel already enumerated, a small chapel had been opened in King's-court, Suffolk-street, which was maintained at a cost of 150*l.* There was also a Christian Instruction Society, costing 60*l.*; a Benevolent Society for visiting the sick poor and providing them with food and necessities, costing 600*l.*; a Dorcas Society, 70*l.*; almshouses, where 23 aged women were maintained, 450*l.*; a Temperance Society, a Tract Society, and lastly, 170*l.* had been collected in aid of foreign missions. The report concluded by pointing out the necessity for increasing the amount of the Rowland Hill Fund, as it would soon be necessary to provide themselves with another building, owing to the expiration of the lease. After an address from the Rev. Dr. Dickerson, of Boston, U.S., the Rev. Newman Hall said that he was desirous of calling the attention of his hearers for a few moments to the Rowland Hill Fund, although the facts were doubtless familiar to many of those present that evening. The fund had arisen from the circumstance that a sum of money had been left by Rowland Hill, which sum was to accumulate in order that the lease of the chapel, when it expired, might be purchased. The document, however, was found contrary to law, and instead of the money coming to the chapel it went to Hackney College. About twelve or fourteen years ago a meeting was held, and it was decided to institute a fund in order to replace the money that was lost. Since that time they had received great help and sympathy, and the result was that they had now 10,200*l.* in the funds. It was announced that Lord Hill, nephew of the Rev. Rowland Hill, had sent a cheque for 100*l.* Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Lord Shaftesbury, the Revs. Hugh Allen, Desborough, T. Binney, F. Tucker, S. Minton, T. Driffild, Berry, and Messrs. S. Morley and T. Hughes, after which an address was delivered by Dr. Randolph. Addresses from Geo. Williams, Esq., who gave 50*l.*, the Rev. J. De K. Williams, Foster, Llewellyn Bevan, &c., brought the meeting to a close.

Colleges and Schools.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.

The usual annual meeting of this college held at the close of the session, took place on Friday evening last, when there was a very large gathering of its friends at the fine building in Finchley-road. Tea was served at five o'clock, and was attended by most of those who were present at the subsequent proceedings. There was, as usual, a numerous attendance of ladies. Some of the visitors made an inspection of the rooms attached to the college, and there was, we believe, a general feeling of regret that such a great institution, having such facilities for education, and with such a staff of professors, did not command a greater number of students. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that the educational appliances in New College are nearly perfect, and the wonder is, to those who know of their existence, that greater advantage is not taken of them. Young men who, either as theological or as lay students, may attend this institution have given to them all the facilities for an education which combines the greatest exactness with the greatest culture. Yet the college is not half full. It is not so bad as Spring Hill, where, as Mr. White stated in his speech, there are only fifteen students; but the fact of comparatively so few students being connected with it, is a fact to be deplored. All the teaching faculty, and that of the highest order, that could be required, exists. Nothing, for the present, needs to be added to the professorial element, and the accommodation is ample and perfect. We gather, however, from the meeting which we report below, which was attended in unusually great numbers, that the interest of Non-conformists in this institution is decidedly increasing. New College is the descendant of Wymondley, Coward, Homerton, and Highbury, and should combine the support which was once extended to those well-known institutions.

The meeting for the distribution of prizes and certificates was held at six o'clock in the library of the College, which was crowded from one end to the other; and as almost the sole arrangement for ventilation was the open doorway, in front of which many were compelled to stand, the atmosphere at the upper end of the room became most oppressive before the close of the proceedings. One feature of the meeting which must have struck all who were intimate with the usual mode of conducting public gatherings, was that the chairman's address was reserved till the proceedings were nearly at an end. This change has the special advantage, when such a man as Mr. Binney was in the chair, of preventing that rapid diminution of members towards the close of the meeting, which so often confuses and annoys those who are called upon to speak late.

In addition to the patriarchal Mr. Binney, who presided, a considerable number, we believe about forty, members of the Congregational ministry attended, among whom were the Revs. Dr. Stoughton, J. Baldwin Brown, B.A., J. Kennedy, M.A., C. Dukes, Benj. Davies, J. C. Harrison, Dr. Nicholas, Dr. Tomkins, Dr. Hoppus, Dr. Wardlaw, Mark Wilks, G. D. Macgregor, Ed. White, Dr. Halley, Prof. Godwin, Prof. Newth, Prof. Nenner, W. Farrer, J. Barker, N. Jennings, T. Fison, W. P. Lyon, A. M. Carter, &c. There were also present Mr. E. Baines, M.P., Mr. C. Reed, M.P., Mr. E. Pye-Smith, Mr. H. Wright, Mr. T. T. Curwen, Mr. C. Latham, Mr. J. Tarring, &c.

The hymn beginning "Head of the Church, our risen Lord," having been sung, and a brief prayer having been offered by the Rev. J. C. Harrison, Mr. C. E. B. REED read his prize essay on "John Howe." The essay was no mere biographical sketch, but rather an analysis of the character of the great Puritan, with frequent necessary references to the manners, morals, and spirit of the age in which he lived. Howe, said the essayist, is not so well known at the present day, even among Nonconformists, as his great talents entitle him to be. The highest forms of goodness are not the most noted, and it will be generally found that the great men of bygone days have been immortalised by some prominent feature which was developed at the expense of others. Howe, however, was an example of universal goodness, without any distinguishing speciality. He must have been a remarkable man to take a distinguished position at all in the age in which he lived. In Devonshire and Ireland he passed many years of his life, and in both places he was regarded with an affection which lasted long after he had attained distinction in the metropolis. Though he was chaplain to Cromwell, he retained the respect of all parties after the Restoration, and on the landing of the Prince of Orange he was chosen to present the address of the Nonconforming divines. In him was found a combination rarely possessed by one man,—unflinching firmness, with gentleness and toleration, and a lofty piety linked with keen worldly prudence. His firmness was far greater than might at first be supposed from his popularity with all parties. His tone was always that of promptitude and decision, and his acts were of a piece with his words. When in Cromwell's court he did not shrink even from attacking his patron, and when the great Protector was displeased, his reply was that he had discharged his duty, and was willing to leave the issue with God. He was one of the two thousand Nonjurors who left the Established Church, and his ejection was but the wicket-gate of his sufferings. He was subsequently imprisoned in the Isle of St. Nicholas, then he took refuge in Ireland, and ultimately was driven to Holland. In 1687, when the King constrained himself to show even a fawning courtesy to eminent Dissenters, and when many were wavering, Howe converted the Presbyterian ministers to his house, and urged them to reject the delusive offer. This firmness was balanced by a degree of gentleness and tolerance which in those stern times was simply astonishing, and on one occasion he wrote:—"Never can there be union in the Christian world until we take down our arbitrary enclosures and content ourselves with those which our common Lord hath set." Amid the irreligion of the age his great piety shone out with almost unearthly light. When he bade farewell to his people in Silver-street, and celebrated the Supper of our Lord, he is said to have fallen into an ecstasy so that it was feared he would die under his sense of the greatness of redeeming love. Yet with this unearthliness of temper was united a great worldly prudence. He was a dangerous man to attack. With a delicate courtesy he could yet administer smartest reproof, and could exchange repartee with the best. To one who in very forcible language expressed his respect for him, and his willingness to do him any favour, he replied, "The only favour, my lord, that I ask is that your lordship will give me leave to swear the next oath." His literary efforts contrast strongly with the sickly sentiment and windy verbiage of many theological writers, and had always enjoyed a reputation for moderation, acumen, and piety.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Farrer) then read the twenty-first annual report, which stated that the session opened on the 30th September, 1870, with fifty students, one more joining the College in October. In addition to this, three lay students attended the lectures, making a total for the year of fifty-four. Three or four of the students had suffered from the prevailing epidemic, but the general state of health of the college had been such as to allow the orderly prosecution of the appointed studies. Since the last annual meeting three students had matriculated in the University of London, and Mr. Alfred Cave, Mr. Frederic Wilkins Aveling, and Mr. Joseph Shield Nicholson, had obtained the degree of B.A. in the same University, while Mr. C. E. B. Reed had proceeded to his degree of M.A. in the University of Cambridge, and Mr. W. Oliver to the like degree in the University of Glasgow. Mr. Matthew Robertson, who upon entering New College had nearly completed a graduate course in one of the Scotch Universities, was allowed at Christmas to enter for three months at the University of Edinburgh, where he has obtained a degree of D.Sc., a prize of 20*l.*, and a certificate of honour, in Logic and Moral Philosophy. Two of the divinity scholarships founded by Dr. Daniel Williams had been obtained by Mr. Robertson and Mr. J. C. Flower. The Pye-Smith scholar-

ship of the year had been awarded to Mr. W. F. Adeney, and the Bennet-King's scholarship to Mr. Henry Wells. The students who left the College at the last anniversary have all become settled as ministers. The preaching stations were never more numerous, or more vigorously sustained, than during the past session, and the council receive from time to time most gratifying evidence of the spiritual benefit conferred by the students on the surrounding populations. The income of the year had again fallen somewhat below the expenditure in consequence of the necessity for alterations and improvements in the interior of the building. The income, too, had suffered from temporary causes. Several collections, usually taken up in spring, had been postponed to the autumn, to make room for others in aid of the sufferers by the recent war; and the average of the collections actually received had, probably from the same cause, been less than usual. The donations, however, amounted in the aggregate to rather more than those of the previous year. Since the union of the three colleges in 1850 more than 170 ministers and missionaries had gone forth from New College to the service of the churches at home and abroad; and the greater part of them were still occupied in the special service for which they were trained.

The several Professors in the College then presented their reports of the studies which the students had been engaged in during the past session.

In the classes presided over by Dr. Halley the senior students had attended a course of lectures on the constitution, government, officers, worship, and symbolical observances of the Christian Church, and on the principal controversies on those subjects. They had also been occupied in the study of the Epistle to the Romans and the First Epistle of John. The students of the second year had attended lectures on the principal doctrines of Christianity. And the junior classes had studied the truths of natural religion and the evidences of Christianity, especially the authenticity, canonical authority, and inspiration of the books of the New Testament. They had also been exercised in an analysis of the several chapters of Butler's "Analogy." The homiletical exercises had been regularly continued, two sermons having been delivered and candidly criticised every Friday.

In the Rev. Professor Godwin's class the juniors had attended lectures on the English language and the elements of moral science; and the seniors lectures on rhetoric, logic, and mental philosophy.

In the Rev. Professor Newth's classes the subjects studied were; in Ecclesiastical History, the General History of the Church from the times of the Apostles to the times of Theodosius the Great; in classics, Sophocles, the Antigone; Homer, Odyssey, B. v.; Tacitus, Annals, B. i.; Virgil, Æneid, B. vii. and viii. The junior class had studied Cicero against Catiline; Homer, Iliad, B. ix. In mathematics, solid geometry, trigonometry, conic sections, Euclid, &c., had been studied.

In Professor Nenner's classes lectures were given on the prophecies of Isaiah, and a portion of it was exegetically explained. A part of the Book of Judges was also explained, and the rudiments of Syriac were taught. The second class read Genesis from the third to the sixteenth chapter, and from the first to the ninth Psalm. Both classes performed weekly exercises in translating from English into Hebrew. In German the senior class read Goethe's "Faust," and the junior class Schiller's "Thirty Years' War."

All the professors expressed themselves satisfied with the progress made by the students in the several classes.

Certificates of honour awarded on the entire work of the session, and also on special studies were then distributed by the chairman. This year for the first time a certificate on vellum was granted to the student who had won the Pye-Smith Scholarship, Mr. W. F. Adeney. A proof copy of the portrait of Dr. Pye-Smith, by Phillips (presented by Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P.) accompanied the certificate.

The treasurer's report showed that the income of the past year had been 3,720*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*, while the expenditure had amounted to 3,862*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, so that at the close of the year a balance was due to the treasurer of 142*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* The schedule of stock remained the same as last year.

The Rev. E. WHITE proposed—

That the report of the council and professors, together with the audited accounts of receipts and payments for the year, be received, adopted, and printed for distribution under the direction of the Council.

He expressed his regret that in the present day the churches which stand highest in social distinction do not send forth to the work of the ministry a fair proportion of young men. He did not believe that this was caused by the spread of scepticism, for there was still a great deal of the most earnest faith in the churches. It was to be attributed rather to secondary than to primary causes. Sufficient prayer was not offered up to "the Lord of the Harvest to send forth labourers." That expression of the Lord Jesus Christ implied that ministers would not be supplied to the Church by any of the ordinary motives that impelled men towards other employments; it was therefore necessary to stir up the various churches to prayerfulness. The effort that had been made to allure the mass of the people to attend places of worship had not been successful, and missionaries were required to go amongst them just as much as missionaries were required among the Chinese or Hindoos. These missionaries ought to be first-class men, acquainted with all the varieties of modern unbelief, prepared to grapple with virulent scepticism, and to meet it with lore and argument and understanding

greater than its own. This work would require a spirit of self-sacrifice perhaps equal to that which led men to go to foreign parts as missionaries. It had been too much the custom of the Church when a man arose with the faculty of leading an apostolic life to export him at once to China or India. Nonconformists were perhaps in some danger of suffering from the special attention that had of late been given to social progress in this country. For some years they had been engaged in an hand-to-hand combat with the Established Church for territorial extension, and many blessed results had followed, but he feared that sufficient care had not been taken about the quality of the churches. Among some bodies of Nonconformity the very idea of a public teacher of religion seemed to be sinking more and more out of sight. Ignorant ministers produced ignorant churches, just as ignorant churches demanded ignorant ministers to satisfy their taste for a vulgar sort of eloquence. What was required was men trained in the study of the Scriptures, who were not led away from that study by the multiplicity of publications and newspapers of the present day. Greater attention should be paid to the quality of the ministers and the churches, rather than to the numbers, and then Nonconformity would spread upwards and downwards, and not continue to be simply the religion of the middle class. (Cheers.)

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. J. D. MACGREGOR, who dwelt at some length upon the pleasures of the ministerial life, and congratulated the students on the evidences which they had shown of the three absolutely essential qualifications for the work of a minister—grace, learning, and common sense.

The resolution was adopted.

The Rev. MARK WILKS moved the second resolution, to the effect that the best thanks of the meeting be given to J. Remington Mills, Esq., for his services as treasurer during the past year, and that certain gentlemen (whose names were read) be requested to form the council for the ensuing year, with Mr. Mills as treasurer. The speaker said that though this resolution needed neither to be expounded nor enforced, it would allow him the opportunity of making a remark upon the report. The previous speakers had taken no notice of a fact to which he believed the secretary desired to give emphasis. It was that the income of the college was never equal to its necessary expenditure. The college was capable of receiving twice the present number of students, so far as its accommodation was concerned, but such an increase would require a larger expenditure. Besides this, one of the purposes for which the college was founded had never been carried out, which was to furnish instruction preparatory to the university for the sons of laymen who might not have the intention of entering the ministry. The possibilities of New College for such forms of usefulness were quite unknown to many of its friends, and were at present quite undeveloped. He, therefore, urged upon the representatives of the churches who might be present to encourage collections and subscriptions to its funds.

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. PERCY STRUTT, and agreed to.

Mr. CHARLES REED, M.P., moved a vote of thanks to the auditors, Mr. Henry Spicer and Mr. Augustine Spicer, and proposed the election as auditors for the ensuing year of Mr. Charles Latham, Mr. Fred. Appleford, and Mr. E. J. Carter. Alluding to the passing of the University Tests Bill, he said it opened a new career to a large number of men who in future years would come out from the churches and give themselves to the work of the ministry; they could first of all enter the great national training places, and then go through a theological course in the London College.

Mr. E. BAINES, M.P., seconded the resolution, and expressed himself deeply impressed with a sense of the value of a learned and godly ministry.

The resolution having been agreed to, prizes of books were distributed by the chairman to the successful students. The first prize, of the value of 20*l.*, was presented to Mr. C. E. B. Reed, M.A., and prizes to the value of 10*l.* were also given to Mr. W. E. Collier, Mr. H. O. Budden, Mr. J. R. Clarkson, B.A., Mr. Alexander Craib, Mr. William Duthie, Mr. A. W. Mummery, Mr. G. S. Ordish, and Mr. Edward Walker.

The CHAIRMAN, after alluding to the differences between the college at Cheshunt and New College, congratulated the students on the honourable manner in which they had passed through the course of study. They were not to consider the ministry to which they were about to devote themselves as consisting merely of preaching, but their duty would be to offer to God the sacrifice of prayer and praise. They should therefore attach great importance to the conduct of the worship of the church. They should study and enter into the spirit of the lessons they intended to read, and then they would be sure to read with such appropriate emphasis as would give the sense and help the people to understand the meaning. This good reading would in most cases produce a much greater impression than the little bits of comments which some interposed. Prayers, too, should be brief, earnest, solemn, the feeling of the heart—developing itself and bursting into words. There was a great power in such prayer, and he had known cases where the spirit of prayer, poured out and cultivated by the minister and sympathised with by the congregation, had produced such a donation of divine and selectest influence in connection with the worship, that at the end of the prayer the people had been

willing to go away without any sermon. He should be extremely sorry to abolish free prayer, but there was such a thing as common prayer, and he did not know but what, wisely and devoutly rendered, a brief liturgical form might not sometimes be found exceedingly acceptable to the churches. The sermon often occupied too important a place in the service, and the worship of God was sometimes spoken of as "introductory" to the sermon. Such an expression sometimes made his heart sink within him. Still there must be preachers, and if men had not power in the pulpit they could not make their way as ministers. The secret of this power was that the subject of the discourse should be God's truth, those great doctrinal representations of which the revelation of God's love and mercy consists. They should try in some degree to forget the academic, the logical, and the literary in their utterances. They might be logical without using logical terms, and might so arrange their sermons that the steps of the argument might be easily perceived and remembered. The style should be simple, manly, good downright idiomatic English; the delivery instinct with earnestness and a desire to glorify God and benefit man. He wished there were better reading and elocution amongst ministers. A great improvement had taken place in this respect during the last twenty years, but still there was room for more attention to the subject. He did not recommend that sermons should always be read, because it would wear out any man to have to write out and read two sermons a week, but it might be desirable to read the sermon occasionally. Still the power of free speech should be carefully aimed at. This required considerable labour; full, careful, studious preparation both of substance and method, argument and illustration; working all into the memory and the heart before delivery, by not only mastering the notes but framing them into a prayer. A gentleman who had received great good from his ministry had given him 1,000*l.* to do what he pleased with, so that it might ultimately advance some good cause, and he intended to leave it in his will to New College. (Applause.) He was so impressed with the deficiencies of many ministers, that he thought of leaving it for scholarships for annual prizes for the best readers and best writers of good English. In conclusion, the rev. gentleman exhorted the students to "take heed unto themselves, and to the doctrine," to "let no man despise them," and never to do anything that might tend to lower the Christian ministry. (Cheers.)

A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Binney on the motion of Dr. HALLEY, and the meeting separated after singing the Doxology.

SPRING-HILL COLLEGE.

The thirty-second anniversary of the Spring-hill Independent College, Birmingham, was celebrated on Tuesday, June 20. A meeting was held in the morning, in the College Library, at which Mr. G. Baines, J. P., of Leicester, presided, supported by a number of ministers and laymen. After an introductory speech from the CHAIRMAN, who referred to the loss sustained by the death of Professor Barker, the treasurer's statement was read, which showed that the receipts had amounted to the sum of 2,293*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.*, and that the expenditure had consumed the whole of that sum, leaving a balance of 70*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.* against the college. The report of the committee was read by the Rev. G. B. JOHNSON, one of the honorary secretaries. After alluding to the loss sustained by the death of Professor Barker, who accepted a chair in Spring-hill College in 1838, and whose labours were recorded at length, the report referred to the changes which had been effected during the year on the roll of students, and recorded the distribution of literary work and responsibility which the professors and committee had agreed on during the past year. The committee reported the following literary honours of the year with pleasure:—Mr. W. Thomas and Mr. F. H. Toms had both matriculated, passing in the first division. Mr. J. Bullock had passed the first B.A. examination, also in the first division; Mr. T. W. Knight, in the second division; and Mr. T. W. Pinn, B.A., had obtained Dr. Williams's Divinity Scholarship, after examination, after which he took the first place. An unusual number of books had been presented to the College library, not a few of which were works of considerable cost and of great intrinsic worth. Reference was also made as a ground of encouragement to the increase of annual subscriptions and collections throughout the midland districts. The Professors then read their several reports of the progress and results of the examination of the students.

The Rev. A. MACKENNAI, of Leicester, moved the adoption and circulation of the various reports.

Mr. R. W. DALE seconded the motion. After expressing the sense of the obligation which the committee felt to the examiners, Mr. Dale referred to the financial position of the college. He said it would be remembered that they generally met at Spring-hill in a financial crisis. (Laughter.) During the last two or three years they had had to deplore receiving rather less from the trust fund of the college than had been received at other times, but a considerable portion of the revenue of the college had been used in improving the buildings on the estate. About 1,100*l.* was received for the past year, the average of the ten years from 1861 to 1870 being 1,200*l.*, and that was a low average, because several of the years included in that period were years during which a very considerable expenditure was going on for the maintenance and

improvement of the buildings on the estate. Mr. Dale concluded by proposing:—

That this meeting highly appreciates the resolution and record of the committee incorporated in the report, respecting the late revered and beloved resident Professor of the College. Never has a public institution been sustained by more holy diligence and fidelity, and rarely with such unbroken, protracted, and successful service as Mr. Barker rendered to Spring-hill. The churches, among whom he was the well-known and welcome advocate of its claims, the long succession of students to whose ministerial preparation he devoted his distinguished abilities and attainments, and the officers and members of the various committees, who ever found in their friend the great moral and intellectual qualities which his position demanded, will not willingly let his memory die. It is cause for much gratitude to God that his life and work were so long preserved to contribute, as they did, to the stability and fame of our college, and that one among whose many excellences an untiring industry was most conspicuous, was permitted to labour on for those whom he loved till within a few hours of his decease. This meeting expresses, also, its deep sympathy with Mrs. Barker and all the members of a large family and social circle, whose loss is irreparable, but whose consolations are yet abundant.

The Rev. W. M. BEEBY (Newcastle-under-Lyme) seconded the resolution. Mr. J. A. COOPER moved:—

That this meeting devoutly recognises the hand of God in the counsels and measures of the committee in relation to the professorial staff of the college during the last two or three years, and heartily assures the professors into whose hands the work of the college is now confided that it regards the unanimity and confidence of their appointment, and the auspicious commencement they have made of their work as the surest presage of continued and still extending usefulness.

The Rev. E. SIMON seconded the resolution, which was acknowledged by the Rev. Dr. SIMON and Professor MASSIE.

The Rev. R. BRUCE proposed a resolution, giving an emphatic record of the obligation of the churches to look for a supply of suitable young men for the ministry.—This was seconded by the Rev. R. HARLEY, and supported by the Rev. E. WHITE. The Rev. G. B. JOHNSON proposed a resolution, thanking the donors of books for the library, and commending such liberality to others for imitation.—It was seconded by Dr. DEANE. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

In the evening a religious service was held, in the course of which the students were addressed by the Rev. E. WHITE, of London. Mr. White's address was upon the influence of the public policy of the Nonconformists on their internal spiritual condition, both as to the Church and the ministry. He showed that whereas, in former times, the grounds of separation from the Church of England were religious and ecclesiastical—and these were the matters mainly considered by their predecessors—of late, the interest of the controversy with the Church of England had been transferred to the question of Establishments. While maintaining the necessity of continuing this contest for religious equality to a successful issue, he urged the students of Spring-hill not to forget that the religious reasons for the separation from the Church were such as to remain unaffected even should disestablishment occur; that these reasons were the obligation laid on the consciences of Nonconformists to attempt a closer conformity to the model of the New Testament in doctrine and discipline than that prescribed in the National Church; and he urged them to remember that no Church could flourish only on protests against other men's mistakes—the first duty being not to be wiser than other people, but to be wise for ourselves. He exhorted them to make the study of the sacred Scriptures the main object of their lives, the Bible, and the Bible as a whole, being alone equal to the conflict with modern literature and modern thought. The address ended by a description of the influences which earned so bad a repute for sermons as a branch of intellectual industry, the remedy being represented to be in the awakening of a deeper faith and enthusiasm in the Christian ministry.

WESTERN COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of the Western College, Mannamead, Plymouth, held on Wednesday, in Union Chapel, Plymouth, was presided over by Mr. A. Hubbard, and was attended by the students, Professor Charlton, principal of the college, the Rev. J. C. Harrison, of London, and a number of ministers and laymen from the town and neighbourhood. After a brief address from the Chairman, Mr. A. ROOPER, the secretary, read the report, which stated that the number of students at the commencement of the session was nineteen, of whom four were missionary students in connection with the London Missionary Society. Several had completed their term of study and had accepted pastorates. During the year the students have conducted no less than 800 public services in the immediate neighbourhood and in different parts of the western counties, of which more than 230 have been gratuitous, and your committee can bear willing testimony to the value which is attached by many of the churches and congregations to the assistance of the students, and they refer to it with peculiar satisfaction, having always regarded this feature in the arrangements of the college with especial favour. At the close of last year the balance due to the treasurer was 116*l.* 11*s.* During the year the income amounted to 1,098*l.* and the expenditure to 1,074*l.*, reducing the debt from 116*l.* to 92*l.* The committee particularly desire to acknowledge the continued contributions of Mr. Windeatt, of Tavistock, and Mr. John Windeatt, of Plymouth, and other gentlemen, to the library. The Rev. D. HEWITT, of Exeter, proposed the adoption and the circulation of the report. It was a matter for great thankfulness to receive such reports of the institution, especially when they remembered how very long it had existed. Dr. THOMPSON seconded the resolution, which was

adopted unanimously. The Rev. C. B. SYMES next moved:—

That the increasing number of Congregational churches in England, the extension of missionary labour abroad, and the growing wants of the colonies, can'tute a distinct call for strenuous and increasing effort to supply, by God's help, through our collegiate institutions, the constant and salutary demand for ministerial service.

One of the greatest evils of the day was the slowness of the supply of Christian men for the work of the ministry, in comparison with the large demands that were being made. There was comparatively no lack of money for the support of God's work when the claims were fairly and distinctly made, but holy, self-denying, prayerful men was a want increasingly felt every year. And the want was not confined to Congregationalists, but was felt by the Episcopal Church, and by every denomination. The feverish heat which distinguished the conduct of every form of business, and the greater worldly advantages it offered, were accountable for this. From those to whom the ministerial life would be an advance in the social scale they had very many applications, but from those willing to consecrate themselves to Christ, to sacrifice much, and to accept all the duties of the office, there were very few indeed. Mr. JACKSON seconded the resolution, which was adopted *nem. con.* The Rev. E. B. HICKMAN moved a vote of thanks to the ministers conducting the half-yearly examinations of the students, and also to the officers, district secretaries, and committees of the past year; and moved the appointment of a new committee. The Rev. N. PARKYN seconded this, observing that never had he known the college in a higher state of efficiency than at present. (Hear, hear.) The students did credit to the professors, and the churches gave the most unqualified approval of their sermons. The resolution, supported by the Rev. Mr. ALLEN, associated with the college very many years since, was carried without dissent. On the motion of Professor CHARLTON, seconded by Mr. T. E. PARSONS, the Rev. J. C. Harrison was cordially thanked for consenting to deliver the annual address to the students and the annual sermon. Mr. Hubbard was also thanked for presiding.

After the singing of the hymn, the Rev. J. C. HARRISON proceeded with his address, in the course of which he expressed his belief that a great deal of the unbelief of the present day was attributable to the thorough ignorance many have of the Bible. Very few knew the Bible as they ought to know it; very few private Christians knew the Bible as they ought to know the Book of Life; and very few ministers knew it really as they should. The present day, certainly, was not favourable to firm and unwavering truth; and there was a great temptation to read only that which favoured the modern forms of truth, because of the charm and freshness of some writers, and because every one was reading it. But they should strive against this temptation, and read something of the old forms. Better not speak at all than to speak without decision. It was the freshness and vigour of Luther's faith, and the decisiveness of Whitefield and of Wesley that produced such great results, that charmed the people, and made their preaching irresistible. Doubts created whilst forming theories in the study would be speedily and effectually dispelled by contact with the practical life of Christians, whilst attending the death-bed of a friend, and whilst soothing the sick-bed and sorrows of a believer. Not only the students, but the whole of the congregation, which fairly filled the body of the chapel, listened most attentively to the address. The annual sermon was preached in the evening at Sherwell Chapel by Mr. Harrison, when a collection was made in aid of the funds.

TETTENHALL PROPRIETARY COLLEGE.

On Tuesday, June 13th, the annual distribution of prizes, previous to the Midsummer vacation, to those pupils in this institution who had specially distinguished themselves, took place in the dining-hall. There was a numerous assemblage of the proprietors of the college, parents and friends of the pupils. Mr. T. W. Shaw (chairman of the board of directors) presided. Prayer having been offered by the Rev. T. G. Horton,

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said it would be in the recollection of those friends who were present at the distribution of prizes last year, that hopes and expectations were then expressed that on the occasion of their next meeting—the present one—they would be able to report a better state of progress in regard to the number of boys in the college, and on that former occasion to which he alluded, he, as chairman of the Board of Management, felt it his duty to state—as he conscientiously could do—for the encouragement of those parents who entrusted their sons to their care, that the directors had been fortunate enough in obtaining the services of a gentleman as head-master, under whose wise, careful, and competent management, they, the directors, felt assured that the youths sent to that institution would become, under the blessing of God, all that their parents could desire for them, both in respect to their moral, their mental, and their physical training. In regard to their anticipations as to the increase in the number of pupils, he believed they had good cause for congratulation when they took into account the previous circumstances under which they laboured; for, after having attained to seventy boys, and then declined down to one-half or less than one-half that number, and with prospects of a still further decrease by reason of ten boys being under notice of removal, and afterwards having succeeded, not

only in arresting that decrease, but in increasing the number by ten or fifteen boys more, that was, he thought, a fair cause for thankfulness. (Applause.) With an institution holding out every inducement to parents to send their boys there, and to cause the boys themselves to love both the school and their masters, and to profit by their studies, the directors had every reason to hope that the number of boys would be largely increased; he (the chairman) should for one feel disappointed if they did not commence the August session with at least sixty boys. The school now made fair to take its proper stand among the other collegiate institutions of the country. While not jealous of similar institutions belonging to other denominations, but wishing well to all, yet they could not be satisfied until they saw Tettenhall College second to none, if it was not so already—(Hear, hear)—in its reputation, for the high scholarly attainments, and fine, manly, deep-tinted conscientiousness of those who had been educated within its walls, and by whom, he trusted, it would be deemed an honour in their after lives to call it their *alma mater*. (Applause.) They had heard so much of education lately; that they were almost tired of the very name of it; still he would say this, that whilst Congregationalists had been by no means neglectful of their share of the duty in providing education for the lower classes, he thought they were showing a wise and far-sighted policy in establishing and liberally supporting institutions like this, where the sons of the higher and middle classes could enjoy educational privileges but little inferior to those which were obtainable at Harrow, Eton, or Rugby.

Recitations and dialogues were then given by some of the pupils, including a Latin recitation by E. F. A. Briggs, a Greek dialogue by T. A. Roberts and J. J. Stockburn, a German recitation by R. F. Horton, a dialogue in French by S. T. Mander and R. W. Hudson, and Poe's poem of "The Raven," by R. F. Horton. The pieces were delivered with spirit and animation.

Mr. A. YOUNG (the head master) explained the mode in which the prizes had been awarded, and how the results which they showed had been arrived at.

The prizes were then distributed as follows:—

TETTENHALL SCHOLARSHIPS.—Senior: T. A. Roberts. Juniors: H. N. Mellor and J. J. Stockburn. The "Salt" prize for Mathematics, R. F. Horton. "Crossley" prize for Classics, R. F. Horton. "Mills" prize for good conduct, A. R. J. Bodley. Prize for Latin and Greek Composition, R. F. Horton. Prize for English Verse, R. F. Horton. Prize for English Essay, E. F. A. Briggs.

FORM V.

Latin and Greek.—Prize, "Crossley," R. F. Horton. Mentioned with praise: T. A. Roberts, E. F. A. Briggs, J. J. Stockburn.

French.—Prize, S. T. Mander. Mentioned with praise: E. F. A. Briggs, R. F. Horton, T. A. Roberts. **Mathematics.**—Prize, "Salt," R. F. Horton. Mentioned with praise: S. T. Mander, E. T. A. Briggs, A. W. Topp, J. J. Stockburn.

English.—Prize, E. T. A. Briggs. Mentioned with praise: R. F. Horton, T. A. Roberts, S. T. Mander. **Scripture.**—Prize, R. F. Horton. Mentioned with praise: T. A. Roberts, E. F. A. Briggs.

GENERAL PRIZE.—T. A. Roberts.

FORM IV.

Latin and Greek.—Prize, S. Roberts. Mentioned with praise: H. N. Mellor, A. F. James, E. F. James, R. W. Hudson, A. J. R. Bodley.

French.—Prize, R. W. Hudson. Mentioned with praise: S. Roberts, H. N. Mellor, E. F. James, A. F. James.

Mathematics.—Prize, S. Roberts. Mentioned with praise: H. N. Mellor, E. F. James, R. W. Hudson. **English.**—Prize, S. Roberts. Mentioned with praise: E. F. James, H. N. Mellor, A. F. James.

Scripture.—First prize, S. Roberts; Second prize, A. R. J. Bodley. Mentioned with praise: E. F. James, H. N. Mellor, R. W. Hudson.

GENERAL PRIZES.—H. N. Mellor, E. F. James.

FORM III.

Latin and Greek.—Prize, S. B. Hudson. **Latin.**—Mentioned with praise: J. Harper, J. H. Keep, W. Pattison, S. B. Hudson, H. S. Dewhurst.

Greek.—Mentioned with praise: S. B. Hudson, W. Pattison, W. J. Jenks, and H. S. Dewhurst.

French.—Prize, S. B. Hudson. Mentioned with praise: J. Harper, J. H. Keep, W. Pattison, H. S. Dewhurst, W. J. Jenks, F. C. Silvester.

Arithmetic.—Prize, J. Harper. Mentioned with praise: F. D. Woodroffe, S. B. Hudson.

Euclid (First Division).—Prize, J. Harper. Mentioned with praise: F. D. Woodroffe, S. B. Hudson, W. Pattison. (Second Division)—Mentioned with praise: A. Hill, A. D. Bantock, S. C. Silvester, H. S. Dewhurst, W. M. Roberts.

English.—Prize, J. Harper.

Scripture.—Prize, J. Harper. Mentioned with praise: S. B. Hudson, H. S. Dewhurst, W. Pattison, H. Oswald.

Reading.—Prize, J. H. Keep.

Writing.—Prize, J. E. Little.

FORM II.

Latin.—Prize, G. Harper. Mentioned with praise: G. Pattison, J. E. Parritt, J. Naylor, W. Taylor.

French.—Prize, G. Harper.

Arithmetic.—Prizes, G. Harper, G. Taylor. Mentioned with praise: W. Taylor, J. Naylor, S. Warden, W. R. Younge.

English.—Prize, G. Harper. Mentioned with praise: W. R. Younge, G. Taylor, W. Taylor.

Scripture.—Prize, W. R. Younge. Mentioned with praise: W. Taylor, G. Harper.

Reading.—Prize, W. R. Younge.

Writing.—Prize, G. Taylor.

German.—Prizes, S. T. Mander, H. N. Mellor.

Chemistry.—S. T. Mander, 1st place, and E. F. A. Briggs.

The Rev. T. G. Horton, Mr. Briggs, the Rev. S. Handley, the Mayor of Walsall, Mr. Woolley, Mr.

Hudson, Mr. Tunstall, Mr. Bantock, and Mr. Dickenson (hon. sec.) afterwards addressed the meeting.

SILCOATES CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL.

Thursday last was a high day at the Congregational School, Silcoates, near Wakefield; for, in addition to the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the institution, there was, for the first time since the school commenced, a reunion of old Silcotians. Since last anniversary the committee have purchased the Silcoates estate, and as they contemplate erecting a more commodious, as well as a more elegant-looking structure than the present school, it was thought by some of the old pupils that the occasion of holding this year's anniversary would be a very opportune one for having a reunion of all the old Silcotians who could make it convenient to be present. With this object in view Mr. T. Perkin Robinson, of Wakefield, and Mr. T. C. Taylor, of Batley, both old Silcotians, put themselves in communication with all of the former scholars whose addresses were known, and about seventy were present on Thursday, and a most enjoyable day was spent by them. To accommodate the increased number of visitors, two large marquees had been obtained, one of which served to hold the annual meeting in. This was placed on the cricket-ground; the other was pitched on the lawn in front of the house, and constituted the dining-room for the guests. Amongst others the following old Silcotians were present:—

Alderman S. Boothroyd, Southport; Joseph Carnley, West Melton; James Cocking, Halifax; J. B. Hacking, Farnworth; the Rev. Samuel Clarkson, Lytham; Richard Clarkson, Heckmondwike; Jno. Clarkson, Batley; H. C. Scales, Bradford; Robert Ivy, Southport; Professor G. Scott, LL.B., Jno. R. Wild, Nottingham; Everard H. Ford, Manchester; Matthew Wilks, Manchester; Professor D. W. Simon, D.D., Birmingham; J. J. Wilks, Manchester; H. Hurst; C. Down, Ireland; J. W. Massey, Bradford; R. L. Armstrong, Bradford; P. C. Ford, Manchester; P. Miall, Bradford; W. Blighborough, Halifax; J. E. Morris, Sale; the Rev. H. J. Senior, Ovensden; Geo. Gill, jun., Burnley; and W. J. Lorraine, Wakefield.

The proceedings were commenced, as on former occasions, by a number of recitations from several of the boys. These were followed by a debate, in Parliamentary style, on the question whether a national army or a standing army were most preferable. The next business was the distribution of prizes, consisting of handsomely-bound books on various subjects, to the boys who stood at the head of their classes at the last examination. The presentations were made by Dr. Mellor, who addressed each prize-taker in descriptive, encouraging, and appropriate terms. The following is the prize list:—

Good conduct, 1st—For Christmas, 1870, Murray, Peterborough; for Midsummer, 1871, Clifton, Blyth. Good conduct, 2nd—For Christmas, 1870, and for Midsummer, 1871, Johnson. **Scripture**—1st, L. Lee, Earlsheaton; 2nd, Johnson; 3rd, Williams. **Greek** 1st, Murray and MacDonald (equals); 2nd, Steer, Latin—1st, Murray, Peterborough; 2nd, Mason and James; 3rd, Phillips, Robin Hood's Bay. **First French**—1st, L. Lee; 2nd, Murray. **Second French**—1st, Evans; 2nd, Hoyle. **German**—1st, Brown (major) and Murray (equals); 2nd, King and Steer (equals). **Euclid**—1st, Murray. **Arithmetic**—1st, H. Lee and L. Lee (equals); 2nd, Dyson (major), Idle; 3rd, H. Johnson. **Debate**—Kell, Seaton Carew. **Recitation for Christmas, 1870**—Islip and H. Lee (equals). **Recitation—For Midsummer, 1871**, H. Lee. **Improvement in Recitation—For Christmas, 1870**, Parkinson (major); and for Midsummer, 1871, Browne (minor). **Reading (senior)** for Christmas, 1870—Perkins; and for Midsummer, 1871, Kell. **Reading (junior)**—For Christmas, 1870, James, and for Midsummer, 1871, Morley. **History**—1st, Browne, Collier (major), King, Lamb (major), H. Lee, L. Lee, and Murray (equals); 2nd, A. Johnson; 3rd, Jones. **Geography**—1st, Browne (major), Collier, King, Lamb (major), H. Lee, L. Lee, Murray, Kell, McDonagh and Smoritt (equals); 2nd, Oldroyd, Huddersfield; 3rd, Dryden, Wakefield. **Grammar**—1st, H. Lee and Murray (equals); 2nd, James, Morley; 3rd, Meggitt, Barton-on-Humber. **Dictation and Spelling**—1st, H. Lee; 2nd, Dyson (major). **Tables and Mental Arithmetic**—1st, Collier and H. Lee (equals); 2nd, Dyson and Walker. **Writing (senior)**—For Christmas, 1870, Evans; for Midsummer, 1871, H. Lee. **Writing (junior)**—For Christmas, 1870, and for Midsummer, 1871, Parkinson (minor). **Improvement in Writing—For Christmas, 1870**, Silverwood, Shelley; for Midsummer, 1871, Lamb (minor), and L. Lee (equals). **Chemistry**, 1st—For Christmas, 1870, Islip and Taylor (equals); for Midsummer, 1871, Lamb (minor); 2nd, Second Chemistry—For Christmas, 1870, Steer; for Midsummer, 1871, Hirst, Smith and Stubbley (equals).

After Dr. BEWGLASS, the principal, had spoken in high terms of the good conduct of the boys, Dr. MELLOR delivered an address. He expressed the pleasure he had felt while listening to the debate, and warmly complimented the pupils on the manner in which they had acquitted themselves. He remarked that he did not know what impression was produced on the minds of the audience whilst listening to the debate, but on his mind a deep impression was made. He did not think if there had been a debate in Parliament on the same subject, that there would have been more matter put into the debate, or that the arguments would have been as well delivered. He said this, not to flatter the boys but to encourage them; and it was one very admirable feature of that school, he was told, that throughout the session the boys were in the habit of having meetings, in which they learned the habit of speaking. Many of the boys, like those before him who were formerly pupils in the school, would

have to take a public share in the business of life. They would be perhaps, some of them, town-councillors and mayors, or there might be before him some nascent Lord Chancellor, for they might rely upon it we were coming to a period when genius and talent would have to rule whatever might be said of aristocratic preferences. The reverend gentleman also spoke in very encouraging terms to the boys who had failed to take prizes this year.

The business of the annual meeting of members was next commenced, and, in the absence of Mr. John Crossley, of Halifax, an old and tried friend of the institution, the chair was taken by Mr. J. Burnley, of Gomersal. The Rev. H. Sanders, Hon. Sec., read a letter from Mr. C. Reed, M.P., an old Silcotian, which expressed regret that he could not attend, as he had hoped to do. The report of the committee was next read, which narrated the steps which had been taken in purchasing the estate for 15,000*l.*, by Mr. Joshua Taylor, Batley, on behalf of the committee. It recommended that a sufficient sum should be raised to pay off such a portion of the purchase money as shall leave the house and building free of rent, and enable them to erect a schoolroom and the necessary conveniences for the accommodation of 100 boys. For these purposes 5,000*l.* at least would be required. The report went on to say:—"Was it too much to ask for this sum from the wealthy denomination to which they belonged?"

Since the last annual meeting several of the pupils have passed public examinations with credit. T. E. Islip, of Bridgestock, matriculated in the first division at the University of London. E. Lee, of Earlsheaton, and W. L. Allot, of Hoyland, passed the preliminary examination at the Royal College of Surgeons, London. T. Clarke, of Doncaster, passed a similar examination in Glasgow; and Charles T. Dryden, of Wakefield, passed the examination prescribed by Her Majesty's Judges for young men about to enter on the study of law. Master Alexander Murray, of Peterborough, passed the Cambridge local examination. Master J. W. Axford, of Peasley-cross, Lancashire, and Master T. W. Morley, of Barton-on-Humber, passed in honours; the latter obtaining special distinction in mathematics.

The reports of the examiners—the Rev. Dr. Falding and the Rev. Bryan Dale, M.A.—were next read, their general and substantial verdict being that the result was such as to reflect the highest credit on the style of teaching pursued by the principal and his assistant masters, and on the diligence of the boys who had the privilege of being under their instruction.

Mr. J. CARNLEY, West Melton, moved the adoption of the report; and the Rev. Dr. SIMON, principle of Spring-hill College, Birmingham, in seconding the same, made allusion to many pleasing reminiscences of his school-life at Silcoates twenty-five years ago, and his obligation for the sound education he then received. He said he felt the profoundest thankfulness for the instruction and training which he got at Silcoates. What was taught was taught thoroughly; and Latin, Greek, and mathematics, were thoroughly well learned, so that he found on going to Lancashire College that the work set before him was comparatively easy, and he had nothing to unlearn. He assured the meeting he felt the greatest interest in the welfare of Silcoates School, and he trusted its future career would far surpass its past. He thought there was great necessity for a new building, and he hoped that ere long a new structure would be reared, and the establishment placed in that position it deserved to occupy. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. HACKING, of Farnworth, moved that a vote of thanks be given to the treasurer, J. Crossley, Esq., Halifax, and the honorary secretary, the Rev. H. Sanders, Wakefield, and to the committee, for their services. Having pointed out the great improvement which had taken place in the school since he was a pupil, he expressed a hope that it would prove a great benefit to the Congregational denomination, and assist in keeping it—where it had ever been—in the front rank as a leader of public opinion. (Hear, hear.) It behoved them, he thought, at the present time to see that all their literary institutions were put on the best possible basis, seeing that a measure had been passed to give a general education to the whole country, which measure, as a body, they hailed with all its faults, although he hoped the faults might soon be removed.

The Rev. S. CLARKSON, Lytham, a pupil in the school some forty years ago, seconded the motion, and expressed the indebtedness which the Congregationalists, as a denomination, were under, in regard to the support of their educational institutions, to the treasurer. After remarking that an immense improvement had taken place at Silcoates since he was a pupil, in things scholastic and in things domestic, he expressed his persuasion that with reference to both, Silcoates School had the confidence of the denomination represented by it. He rejoiced to be present on that occasion, and to feel that there was a new era opening up for Silcoates School, and to wish it God-speed.

Professor SCOTT, Lancashire College, another "old boy," moved a vote of thanks to the examiners for their services. The resolution was seconded by Mr. MATTHEW WILKS, Manchester, who said he was sure that those of them who came up to Silcoates on the previous evening and saw the boys out at play were struck with one thing, and that was the happy appearance of each one of them. It was evident to his mind that a feeling of love and esteem was very strong between Dr. Bewglass, the principal,

and the boys. And this was as it ought to be, and it was one reason why the Silcotians loved the place so much. He joined heartily in the remark that Silcoates School had been of great benefit to ministers' sons. When his two sons were old enough he should send them to it.

Mr. SCALES, of Bradford, moved, and the Rev. H. SENIOR seconded, a resolution expressing the high appreciation of the meeting of the able manner in which Dr. Bewglass, the matron, and assistant masters had conducted the school during the past year. Mr. Alderman BOOTHROYD, Southport, proposed, in a lengthy speech, the following resolution:—

That this meeting bears with satisfaction of the purchase of the Silcoates Estate by the committee of the school, and recommends that a new schoolroom be built as soon as practicable, and all the other additions and alterations made which have so long been needed and desired to secure the proper tuition, oversight, and domestic comfort of the pupils.

He stated that he was about the oldest Silcotian present, for it was forty-four years since he left the school. Mr. L. ARMSTRONG, Bradford, in seconding the resolution, said that the alteration ought to be done at once. Mr. EVERARD FORD, Manchester, moved that it was desirable that a sum of 5,000*l.* should be raised, and that the meeting "promised to use its utmost efforts to raise this fund; that it recognised with pleasure the presence of many old pupils that day, giving them a hearty welcome, and earnestly commending the interests of the school to them in this important crisis of its history, asking their help, in their respective spheres and localities, towards raising the above-named fund." He should be glad to subscribe 10*l.*, and he thought if all the old Silcotians would do the same the requirements of the committee would soon be met. Mr. JAMES COCKIN, Halifax, who was a pupil in the years 1832 to 1837, seconded the resolution, and expressed his gratitude for the education he had received there, and for the education his two sons had received there. He suggested that each old Silcotian should give, say 5*l.* himself, and get 5*l.* more from his friends, and by that means the amount required would soon be raised. He and his two sons had been at the school; his brother and his son had been there—five of them—and he should be glad to guarantee 50*l.* (Cheers.)

The Rev. H. SANDERS proposed, and Dr. BEWGLASS seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Perkin Robinson, Wakefield, and Mr. T. C. Taylor, Batley, with whom they said the idea of a reunion of Silcotians originated, and through whose exertions there were so many present that day. On the motion of Mr. BLAGBOROUGH, Halifax, seconded by Mr. WILD, Nottingham, a vote of thanks was given to Dr. Mellor and Mr. Burnley for presiding. At the close of the meeting the "old boys" adjourned to the old dining-room where all had often dined before, while the friends partook of luncheon in the marquee on the lawn. After dinner the old Silcotians held a meeting to decide upon what steps should be taken to assist the school committee in raising the funds necessary to carry out the proposed improvements. A committee—consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number—M. Wilks, Professor Scott, Blagborough, J. Clarkson, J. W. Massey, J. Wild, Professor Simon, T. C. Taylor, and T. P. Robertson, was appointed. The erection of the new building will not in the least interfere with the school duties.

AIREDALE COLLEGE.

The annual meeting of Airedale College was held in the library of that institution on Thursday, June 21st, the Rev. J. G. Miall presiding. Mr. Stanley, the senior student, read an interesting essay on "The Vicarious Character of Christ's Death." The Rev. Dr. Mellor, of Halifax, delivered the annual address to the students, taking as his subject simplicity in preaching. The report of the institution, the financial statement, and the examiners' reports were next read by the Rev. S. Dyson, the secretary, and approved. There have been eighteen students in the college during the session, of whom five are leaving it this anniversary. After various formal resolutions had been passed the meeting was made special, and the subject of the amalgamation with Rotherham College was considered. Sir Titus Salt, Bart., has promised 2500*l.* towards the erection of a new college in or near Bradford, and in the letter in which he made the offer he suggested a renewed attempt at amalgamation. The College Committee have taken the matter up, and the negotiations with Rotherham have so far progressed, that the committee of that institution have agreed to recommend amalgamation in a college in the neighbourhood of Bradford to their constituents. Resolutions, with the view of carrying out the amalgamation, were unanimously carried.

SYDNEY SMITH'S RAZOR.—A clergyman was hesitating about the acceptance of a small preferment. It was just too little to enable him to live. "Pooh, pooh," said Sydney Smith, "think of me; I have always led the life of a razor, in hot water or in a scrape."—*Recollections of John Adolphus.*

SERMONS AND HOUR GLASSES.—The Chapel of the Savoy—not long since destroyed by fire, but subsequently restored, and by Queenly munificence handsomely adorned—is a chapel Royal. We are informed that the Queen has sanctioned the restoration of the pulpit sandglass in the chapel; though a change has been made in the measure of its capacity. It is no longer an hour-glass, but is metered for twenty minutes only!—*Daily Telegraph.*

Correspondence.

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS ACT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Committee of the Association at Cambridge for the removal of religious disabilities from the Universities, the following resolution was unanimously passed. If you can find a place for it in your columns, you will greatly oblige

Yours truly,

NEVILLE GOODMAN, Hon. Sec.

The Avenue, Cambridge, June 22, 1871.

"That this association desires to congratulate Her Majesty's Government on the passing of the University Tests Bill. The association (in so far as it represents members of the University of Cambridge, which by this Act is placed on closer and more cordial relations to the nation, and also in so far as it represents Non-conformists who are no longer excluded from the offices and emoluments of the Universities), wishes to express its sincere and hearty thanks for a reform which has long had the support of the Liberal party, and is peculiarly grateful to that large section of it whose interests the Act specially affects. The association will look forward with keen interest to the projected and proposed measure of University Reform which is to include the question of clerical fellowships.

REPUBLICANISM IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In my last letter I deferred any remarks upon the third and last division of my subject, which I now subjoin, having previously stated my views relative to the Queen and Royal family as well as the tenure of land.

3.—THE CLAIMS OF THE PEOPLE.

The just claims of the people, I believe, will never be understood, and therefore, without imputation upon anybody, never be duly appreciated, until in Parliament itself they be explained, advocated, and defended, with the assistance of representatives from among themselves. As it is, twenty millions of people have not one man of their own order to state and stand up for their peculiar interests. They may be Conservatives or Liberals, Monarchists, or Republicans, I care not which; but I contend, that, with many good friends in other grades of society, they have not one man of their own sort who can speak in Parliament their own desires in their own language. I acknowledge, that the door is not positively closed against such candidates; and therefore all I have to say is, let us see if we cannot overcome those retarding influences which spring out of our lowly condition. And when they have obtained admission let them sit as independently as the noblest or the wealthiest Member in the House.

When working-men make their appearance, though by but ones and twos, in Parliament, the Legislature will quickly learn what are the chief desires of the people, so far as legislation can and ought to gratify them. I will not multiply instances, though more than one or two occur to me. We do not ask public authority to fix or graduate wages. Give us fair play, and we will arrange that matter among ourselves, and with those who employ us. But, on behalf of the many weak and dependent, we should call upon a Parliament disposed to look with justice at our case, to bear in mind that the law has already undertaken to defend the feeble against the mighty, in respect to the hours of daily labour. Either the sanitary legislation of which we have heard so much, is sheer hypocrisy, or a maximum ought to be imposed upon a day's labour in the interest of all who have it not in their power to limit their hours of work; except where uncontrollable exigencies create cases to be dealt with by themselves. For example, Mr. Bass, the member for Derby, has discovered that railway men are, for low wages, expected to keep on at a stretch alike incompatible with their own powers of endurance and with the safety of the public.

This allusion to health brings me to the point of playgrounds for the people. With grateful satisfaction, I acknowledge that the supply of this great need first occurred to the magnanimous hearts of certain large employers of labour. Let it suffice to name Strutt, Crossley, Salt, Mason, and others. But this is a matter which must not be left wholly to private and individual benevolence, brightly as the acts of such men reflect upon themselves, and loudly as they speak of the social happiness that may be expected to be enjoyed in proportion as capital and labour, master and man, come to understand and appreciate each other. The idea that the land on which a nation has been born belongs to that nation, has taken full possession of the minds of the people. Nothing that can be said about the difference between old countries and new, and about the difficulty of applying a hitherto neglected principle to the former, will induce them to forego its assertion. And of what avail is the mere assertion of a principle without its embodiment in practice? Such a change in law and custom as, by dividing the land among many holders, instead of allowing it to remain in the hands of a few, who, by that means, have constituted themselves preponderantly, if not exclusively, the ruling class—such a change, I say, might not merely make land more productive, but, in some proportion, as it multiplied the proprietary, might at the same time abate the bitterness of discontent. This effect would be increased by an accompanying taxation of land, especially

if taking the form of a payment understood to carry with it, in the demand and the compliance, the claim and the acknowledgment of the supreme proprietorship of the State and nation.

With regard to so much of the land as confessedly does belong to the State and nation, or as, on any system of sale or of compensation, might by degrees pass into that category, policy and convenience together would easily dictate its most expedient disposal. With one portion of it the Legislature might advantageously call into existence a considerable class of peasant proprietors holding it at a moderate fixed rent. No other measure could have so powerful a tendency to rescue this class of the community from the social degradation into which they have been suffered to sink. Unenclosed commons might either be enclosed and partitioned among individual graziers and cultivators, or continue, as in some instances would probably be found convenient, to fulfil the double purpose of commons and recreation grounds. Nothing, however, would more conduce at once to health, pleasure, and contentment, than the devotion of certain wild forestlike lands, somewhat remote from towns, and of other open spaces more contiguous to them, as parks and playgrounds for the people.

On reviewing what I have written, I find that I have by no means touched upon all the subjects on which, at starting, I had thought of speaking; but I must now close, and beg to thank you for the space which you have kindly afforded me.

Yours obediently,

GEORGE POTTER.

10, Bolt-court, June 12.

A GERMAN VIEW OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—At the present time, and in connection with the question of the position which the Church of England occupies as the religious teacher of the English people, it may be interesting to learn the opinion of the "intelligent foreigner" on the subject.

The following is an extract from an article respecting Dr. Döllinger's so-called apostasy, which appeared in a German Catholic newspaper of yesterday's date, the object of which is to cheer the desponding in view of the results which may flow from that event. After referring to converts which have been made in various parts of the world, the writer goes on to say:—"In much greater measure does England appear to be ready to turn to Mother Church, for a very great number of clergymen and laity assume more and more the Catholic doctrines and customs, so that their adversaries regard them as complete Papists—that is, Catholics. . . . The English State-Church, whose severance from Rome occurred in such a striking and disgraceful manner, occupies a peculiar and singular position, and appears now called to prepare the way for the union of all severed Christians with the Catholic Church, and in respect of our people at least to make it a matter of fact. With reference to the Church, it is no more a question of single conversions, but of the character and tendency of it as a whole—the whole denomination (the English State-Church) is on its way to Rome. It seems as if through it the prophecy is about to be fulfilled—'About this time there will be a great people on the sea who in great part will again receive the true faith.'"

These are strong words to be used in reference to that Church which many delight to call the bulwark of Protestantism.

Yours, &c.,

J. A. MERRINGTON.

Eltville, June 12.

MISSIONS TO CHINA.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—In order that the whole question of missions in China should be fully understood and appreciated, it is most important that we should know—and no one can afford the information better than Mr. John—not merely how the missionaries of the London Society and other organised and responsible Protestant institutions have demeaned themselves towards the natives, but how it has been with others—have they behaved as being responsible to the home authorities and with due respect to the powers that be?

Since this discussion commenced, I have met with a statement in a Roman Catholic journal, showing that in the district of Eastern Tong King, some years ago, during a period of persecution, Dr. Retord, Bishop of Acanthis, reported:—

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|---|--------|
| Baptisms of Christian children . . . | 5,777 |
| Pagan children in danger of death . . . | 930 |
| Adults | 199 |
| Confessions | 88,542 |
| Viaticums | 743 |
| Extreme Unctions | 4,797 |
| Marriages blessed | 595 |
| Confirmations | 421 |

We are all more or less familiar with the extraordinary claims made by Roman Catholic missionaries almost miraculous successes from the time of Hue to the present hour; and it would be interesting to know from so observant a friend as your correspondent how much truth there is in these statements; and, if they

really represent matters of fact, how such astonishing results are produced? We know how tenderly High Churchmen and Roman Catholics at home speak of Protestantism, and of the faith and worship of those who differ from them. Is this kind of thing subdued or intensified in dealing with the followers of Buddha, Confucius, and Taon in the Flowery Land?

Again, George Muller in his last report informs us that he has twenty-five missionaries labouring in China. Others of the brethren besides the Mullerists have representatives and teachers there. How do these and other nondescripts deal with the natives? Have they as much brotherly compassion upon the ignorant and those who are out of the way as is manifested by many of their compatriots at home? In justice to the Chinese Government as well as to our own administration, it is only right that the whole truth should be known.

It seems to me that in respect to the Government of China both Mr. John and your correspondent "Theophilus" assume what is hardly proved. Mr. John states as a fact that which can only be an impression or an inference; indeed, although he speaks of it twice over as a fact, he says only that he *believes* "that the Chinese Government has for the last three years been pursuing a policy which has for its sole object the present restriction and the ultimate dissolution of all existing relations." But it is perfectly open for any of us to "sincerely believe" the contrary, until there are more solid grounds for the assumption. I have lying before me a contemporary newspaper certainly not unfavourable to missionaries, in which it is said in reference to the circular just issued by the Government in China to their representatives about missions:—"It is evidently directed against the Romish missionaries and their most unjustifiable claim to withdraw their converts from the operation of the laws of their country and the obligations of citizenship. We repeat our belief that the Government has abandoned all intention of issuing an edict against missionaries, but much that it requires of them is reasonable, and the Protestant missionaries will, we are sure, not hesitate to comply with its wishes so far as they can do so without offence to their consciences. Mr. Wade writes on the 29th of March that there has been no disturbance of the peace in any district this year, and he cannot discover any increase of hostility towards missionaries in the temper of the people."

I will only add another word, to say to "Theophilus," that Paul, both to the magistrates at Philippi, and to the chief captain at Jerusalem (Acts xxii. 25), claimed everything as a Roman citizen, and not as a messenger of Christ. Neither Roman citizens or British subjects have any right to claim immunity from arrest if they are contravening the laws of the State in which they are voluntarily residing. As British citizens, Englishmen can claim all that English law allows wherever they may be; but I maintain with all deference, that missionaries, as such, have no right to special enactments or exceptions in their favour in any country or from any rulers. They become soldiers of the Cross by the grace of Christ, and assume the offensive against heathenism, whether at home or abroad, at their own risk, and under a glorious leader. If they are called upon to endure hardship, they are also promised large rewards. They shall be crowned if they strive lawfully; and I hold it to be impolitic, unwise, unreasonable, and contrary to the Divine Word of command, to ask for Caesar's care in the conduct of Christian war.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,
GEO. M. MURPHY.

Walworth, S.E., June 22, 1871.

STORING A PROPORTION OF INCOME FOR RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE USES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Casually I met a much-esteemed minister lately away in the west, who asked me how my efforts succeed. This kind of question is continually put to me. A few testimonies from strangers during a recent three weeks' visitation answer such inquiries.

At L. a gentleman said, "Your speech at B. five years ago broke the spell of a temptation to back out of a promise. I instantly paid the £1., got peace of mind, and have ever since devoted up to a given proportion with joy." A gentleman from Cornwall warmly thanked me for the free circulation of "Uncle Ben's Bag" among the Sabbath-school teachers of his town, much good having already arisen from this effort. In a train near H. a lady said, "I feel bound to tell you that eleven years ago my late husband learnt of you to store for God. He won several converts. I continue it with advantage and pleasure." A gentleman at O. said, "My uncle practised storing, wrote upon it from your tracts, and won many converts." After an address at B., a young mechanic said, "I began to store from hearing your address at C. six years ago." A friend afterwards told me that he earns about 22s. per week, is a regular giver, and had just handed him 10s. towards a new chapel. A further testimony ranks with those more beautiful and spiritual ones, which I cannot bring myself to record. I am often asked for the names of persons who store for God, and requested to ask of them help for different objects; sometimes, even, by strangers. In justice to such friends, and in self-protection, I always decline. My efforts are directed to win to personal storing, not to make those who practise it the victims of constant and distant applicants. For the

information of many inquirers, I would recommend Mr. J. Whitaker's movement, and Mr. Conder's tract.

Dear Sir, yours truly,

JOHN ROSS.

Hackney, June 15, 1871.

THE NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF THE SCOTT CENTENARY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In August next will occur an important event in the history of the country, viz., the centenary of Sir Walter Scott's birth. It has been resolved to celebrate the centenary on the 9th of August next, in this, the city where he was born, under the presidency of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch. The promoters of the celebration have all along sincerely desired that it should be carried through in a national spirit. They are sensible that the name of Walter Scott is as highly honoured in England as in Scotland. One of the first steps taken was to address invitations to the most distinguished men of Great Britain and also of America; and I am glad to state that in many instances these invitations have been accepted, and the celebration promises to be in every way worthy of the man, the metropolis of Scotland, and the nation.

An exhibition of paintings and relics of Sir Walter Scott will also take place here, beginning 15th July, and ending the 12th of August.

I shall feel much obliged by your making the celebration known through your influential columns, and I shall be glad to communicate with any ladies or gentlemen who feel an interest in the subject and are disposed to assist.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. USHER, Secretary.

Edinburgh, June, 1871.

THE PAYMENT OF FEES IN SECTARIAN SCHOOLS.

MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

A public meeting to protest against the use of the rates for propagating the dogmas of rival Churches, was held in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday night. Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather, the attendance was not so large as would otherwise have been the case, but the body of the hall, and the side galleries, were crowded. Mr. T. Kenrick presided, and the platform was occupied by influential Liberals and Nonconformists of the borough.

The CHAIRMAN in explaining the object of the meeting, said that they were prepared, willingly and cheerfully, to rate themselves for the purpose of providing education for every child in this town, but he did not think they were prepared to see the principle of Church-rates, against which they contended so long and so earnestly, again established in Birmingham. If the application of any part of the rates was to be made to teach denominational views, they believed that they were going back to the old Church-rate principle. If they agreed with him upon that point, he believed that they would also agree that no compromise and no concession could be accepted. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. SCHNADHORST explained that Mr. George Dawson, Mr. Middlemore, and the Rev. C. Vince were unavoidably absent, and read a letter from the former stating that what was wanted now, was the support of the majority of ratepayers to the minority on the school board.

The Rev. H. W. CROSSKEY moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting desires to express its irreconcilable hostility to the determination of the Birmingham School Board to use the rates of the borough for the payment of the fees to indigent children attending denominational schools, believing (1) that to increase the amount voted to those schools from public funds is contrary to a sound educational policy, and must repress the development of an efficient and national system of education; (2) that this new appropriation of public money to the maintenance of the religious dogmas of rival Churches is contrary to the principles which should guide the legislation of the country, and will be regarded by a large number of the ratepayers as a violation of the rights of conscience.

It had been, he said, the sublime characteristic of modern legislation to know and to accept the principle that religion was a matter between a man's soul and his Maker, and that to place official reward or State-aid on the side of the profession of any religious faith was to fuse an element of worldliness with the divine life of the soul. On that principle, modern legislation had placed Catholic, Dissenter, and Jew in Parliamentary and civil rights, the Irish Church had been displaced from its throne of injustice, the Universities had been partially opened; but now, throughout the country, there was a demand made to reoccupy that which freedom had conquered by the power given by the Education Act, passed, unfortunately, by a Liberal Government—(Hear, hear)—who, in that, had betrayed the religious liberty of the people—(Hear, hear)—and who had opened anew the fountains of sectarian strife by the Act. A majority had been placed in power in Birmingham by the method of voting, which had given intensest sectarianism the religious power. In carrying out the Act, the board had had to choose between ecclesiastical ascendancy and religious equality. The board had chosen ecclesiastical ascendancy, and they stood there that night for religious equality, expressing in the resolution which he had read, not their mere dislike to the proceeding, nor their mere disagreement to it, but their irreconcilable hostility to the reversal of the course of modern

legislation, to the outrage upon individual liberties, and to the refettering of ancient bonds. (Cheers.) They were told that they were not practical men of the world, and that it was only young men belonging to debating societies who ventured to speak on abstract principles. But he had yet to learn that the principle of religious equality was a mere dream, a young enthusiasm, although he believed that more of them would keep a young enthusiasm in their manly hearts than some imagined, that this was not a matter to be relegated as an abstraction to the dim region of abstruse mathematical problems, but that in religious equality the mind could grow in knowledge, the soul rejoice in light, and the free conscience accept the law of God. It might as well be urged that in establishing a criminal code, justice was too abstract a thing to be considered—that it was better to go to the good old plan that "they should take who have the power, and they should keep who can"—(Hear, hear)—because justice was an abstraction, a thing for debating societies, too sublime for practical men—as claim that religious equality was not to guide the deliberations of the school board. (Hear, hear.) They must speak plainly, because the town had that night to speak. It might have been imagined that the school board would have found occupation for its zeal in building schools for 15,000 children which was the due of Birmingham, and their management might have sufficed the greediest glutton for work; but there were schools in Birmingham which presented sweeter graces and finer charms than any the board could maintain under the existing Act. Those graces and those charms were twofold. In the first place, there were private schools, which were under private management, which were private property, and over which the ratepayers could have no control through their representatives in any way whatever. They violated the great condition of government by the people, for the people, through the people. They were governed by ecclesiastical committees, and if the money of the ratepayers was paid to these schools, they would pay to that over which the people had no control. The second grace and the peculiar charm of those schools he thought to be greater than the first. It was that in them those beloved catechisms might be taught without fear and without restraint. Any dogma that was chosen might be taught in its absolute entirety, and the ratepayers were called upon to support a school in which that was done. (Hear, hear.) He came there to say that he believed in the existence of a vast ecclesiastical conspiracy to obtain the education of England into the hands of partisans. He believed that north and south, east and west, there was but one policy. He would show in one or two words why they made this charge. In the applications for rate aid from denominational schools there were 3,230 applications; 2,852 Church of England schools—274 British and Wesleyan, and 104 from other sects, Baptist, Congregational, Unitarian, Jewish, and undenominational. Why was this? Because Nonconformists accepted the national system. They thought that if the system of payment of fees to denominational schools went on, the Church of England and Roman Catholic schools would be almost entirely supported by public money. (Hear, hear.) He would not say one word against the Roman Catholics. He admired, in many respects, their old and marvellous Church, but they were not prepared to grant to them in this country, or in Ireland, that which they did not claim for themselves. (Cheers.) He held in his hand the manifesto of the nominees of the Union, which was sent throughout the length and breadth of the land. These nominees said that they were to support the general cause of morality and of their religion; that they were bound to oppose the League, the Secularists, and the Atheists. What was the defence which was made of the course which had been taken? They were told that the Act required them to fill these denominational schools, but the Act gave them a choice between the two. Let it be understood the Act did not in any respect force them to fill these schools. The school board could provide for the education of the children of Birmingham in a way acceptable to the consciences of the community, if they chose to do so. (Cheers.) What was the argument from conscience worth? It amounted to this: Suppose they gave a poor man a ticket for food and clothing, but denied him the power of exchanging that ticket. Now, he said, if they gave a man a ticket for education, if he wanted any particular creed taught, let him go to those who taught that creed, and to those of the religion in which he believed. (Cheers.) But what was this conscience? It was the conscience of Dr. Burgess and other gentlemen who wanted their property for their schools. (Loud and continued cheers.) The rev. gentleman contended that the defence of the course which had been adopted by the the board entirely broke down—(Hear, hear)—and concluded with some eloquent remarks in favour of that religious equality which they demanded. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, in seconding the resolution, said that, although not a Nonconformist, his sympathies were very strongly with the minority upon the school board, and also with the objects of that meeting. It seemed to him that this was not a question of Conformity or of Nonconformity—(applause)—but of citizenship—a question of ordinary justice and political morality. (Cheers.) With Mr. Crosskey he thought they had grave cause to be dissatisfied with the course the Liberal Government had taken in the matter. (Hear, hear.) They were led to believe that the question

of national education had assumed the dignity of an imperial question, and that it would be settled by the present Government upon a national and definite basis. But they found that the Government had been wholly incapable of dealing with the various difficulties with which it has been surrounded, and had handed those difficulties for settlement to persons less qualified to deal with them than themselves. (Hear, hear.) Partly owing to the new-fangled cumulative vote, and partly through their own fault, they found that in Birmingham, the centre of Liberalism, the birth-place of the League, the place of all others dedicated to the support of civil and religious liberty, they had the national education of the people, at a crisis of supreme importance, handed over for three years to the Conservative and clerical party. The result had been what might have been anticipated. The majority of the school board, notwithstanding the most earnest remonstrances and most pertinacious and energetic opposition, had—anxious to make hay while the sun shone—(laughter)—passed a series of bye-laws, which, if put in force, would take the money of the ratepayers for the purpose of subsidising denominational schools. It should be borne in mind that there was no conceivable necessity for their taking this course. The Act did not require them to do so. The clause under which they were acting was purely permissive, and their action would arouse a bitter and relentless religious animosity, which everyone should be anxious to avoid. The radical difference between the schools about to be established and the denominational schools was very simple but very striking. In rate schools no religious instruction or observances formed a part of the necessary school system; the religious and secular were kept distinct; and no school inspector could inquire any child's proficiency in religious knowledge. In denominational schools definite and dogmatic religious teaching was part of the school course, and scholars were protected from religious dogmatism only by the operation of a conscience clause. Details were unnecessary, but the practical result of the new bye-laws was this—that large subsidies would be given to Roman Catholic and Church of England schools, each teaching dogmatic theology, out of the rates. Their object was to place some denominational schools in a better position than others, and to do this not at the expense of the denomination but of the State. It seemed to him that two very clear conclusions were to be drawn from the unhappy controversy. First, that they would avoid much sectarian animosity, and save much unnecessary labour, if the elementary education of the country were less and less in the hands of divines, and more and more in the hands of laymen. (Cheers.) Second, that they would have more and more to separate in elementary education that which was secular from that which was religious. (Hear, hear.) They did not, on that ground, undervalue religion; for they were convinced of the deep necessity of those religious teachings which moved the consciences and coloured the lives of men. But they said that by separating the distinct province of the statesman's temporal interests from the distinct province of the Church, they were elevating the work both of the churches and of the State, and conformed to the principles laid down for them by the Great Author of their faith, that they should "render unto Cæsar the things that be Cæsar's, and unto God the things that be God's." (Cheers.)

The Rev. W. F. CALLAWAY, in supporting the resolution, said that that meeting was called to express hostility to, and to protest against, the determination of a board, mainly elected by the ratepayers of Birmingham, to levy rates for virtually subsidising certain sectarian bodies amongst them. For Birmingham men to have to meet and protest against the action of a corporation or body elected by the ratepayers was, he thought, a new experience for them. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Callaway characterised the revival of the old Church-rate agitation as a healthy thing, and argued that, in fighting this battle Birmingham men would afford a stimulus to the country districts to follow their example, as they did in former controversies. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried with four dissentients. The Rev. J. B. BROWN moved,—

That this meeting desires to express its unqualified admiration of the ability, courage, and determination displayed by the minority of the school board in their efforts to maintain the rights of conscience, and that the meeting desires to assure them of its hearty sympathy and support, in the difficult contest in which they are engaged.

(Cheers.) As the representatives of the Nonconformists, in the broadest and the most liberal sense, the six had drawn a clear line of demarcation between the eight ecclesiastics on one side and six liberal, large-hearted, conscience-loving men, on the other side. (Cheers.) Their opposition to the injustice of the majority was an old story written in martyrdom and sacrifice, and if necessary it would again be recorded in sacrifice. (Cheers.) What could be more indecent than that before an inch of land was bought, before a single brick had been bought for the erection of schools, these eight ecclesiastical gentlemen should attempt to dip their hands into the pockets of the ratepayers, and thus provide for their own sectarian establishments instead of paying for them their own selves. (Cheers.) In the face of conduct like this, the minority were justified in fighting their battle of position, step by step; for they were fighting, not for Birmingham alone, but for the whole land. (Loud cheers.) Would the meeting support the minority in their contest, whatever might accrue? (Enthusiastic cheering.)

The Rev. G. B. JOHNSON seconded the resolution.

If suffering were necessary on behalf of the principles of religious equality, he did not think there existed in England six gentlemen more fitted to undergo that punishment than the gentlemen who represented the minority on the school board. (Cheers and laughter.) They had been charged with entirely overlooking the necessity which existed for religious instruction. This he denied, for they admitted the necessity, but said it could not, and should not, be supplied by Government. (Hear, hear.) When anybody said to him that it was a violation of conscience to send his child to a secular school, he was wrong. It might not be the attainment of an end which he sought, but it was no violation of conscience to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. He agreed with the objector that the religious education of the child was most momentous, and should be given, but not from the same source which supplied those things upon which both he and the objector were agreed. Roman Catholicism and Protestantism could not both be right; Evangelicalism and Rationalism could not both be right; and when a ratepayer had conscience enough to believe that these creeds were utterly irreconcilable, he should not be called upon to pay for what he believed and what he disbelieved altogether. (Cheers.) He said with great deliberateness of conscience that he looked upon the Church of England at this moment, and saw the clergy of the Church—men who, by their constant iteration of their own claims, ought to be looked up to as examples of honesty, of truth, and of charity—were the very reverse of what they professed to be. (Hear, hear.) They taught every Sunday doctrines which they did not believe. (A voice: "Charity.") He was charitable, and he pleaded for charity for the souls which were misled and deceived by these men. He had no respect for the religious community, High-Church, Low-Church, Broad-Church, which could say, "We will keep in one organisation together," although, at the same time, they were continually assailing one another, and they knew that in their internal differences they were as widely asunder as those other sects which came not within their organisation. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried, with but two dissentients.

Mr. R. W. DALE, who was received with enthusiastic and long-repeated cheers, responded to the resolution on behalf of the minority of the school board. He said the minority accepted the resolution, and the cordial and all but perfect unanimity with which it had been passed, as an assurance that in the judgment of the ratepayers they had not betrayed the principles which last November they were charged to defend, and that the ratepayers were resolved to stand by their side through all the vicissitudes of this great conflict. (Hear, hear.) He observed that the resolution contained an assurance of sympathy; but he was not quite sure, after all, whether the minority needed sympathy. (Laughter and "Hear, hear.") The minority had not lost their courage—they were not depressed; they knew they were fighting a battle in which they must win—(Hear, hear)—and that before very long the principles for which they were contending would secure a complete and irreversible triumph. (Cheers.) It was quite true that hard things had been said of them outside the board. They had been told that they could not honestly seek a place on the board, that they had shown a spirit of narrow sectarianism, that they bullied and browbeat their opponents, that they had carried intimidation to a pitch of positive indecency that had exceeded the direst anticipations of their critics. The vocabulary of abuse had been almost exhausted in the endeavour to make them odious to their townsmen. But language of this kind did not trouble them; it was too violent and too wild to produce any effect; and they had been used to this kind of thing for a long time. Reckless abuse had always been the favourite weapon of the Conservative party—(cheers)—and in past battles Liberals had discovered that it did very little execution. Liberals and Nonconformists had always been treated in this way. The minority conceived that they were fighting, not merely the battle of the Nonconformists of the town, but the battle of all Liberal ratepayers, and they constituted the vast majority of the constituency; they believed those ratepayers, and not merely the members of the Nonconformist congregations, were strongly and resolutely opposed to the policy of sustaining the dogmatic teaching of rival Churches out of the rates levied on the whole borough. (Hear, hear.) They believed they were also asserting the true economical interests of the town; for their conviction, after careful inquiry and investigation, was that the proposal which the majority of the board had adopted involved a most wasteful expenditure of the funds of the borough. (Hear.) Incidentally they had had to fight the battle of free speech—(Hear, hear)—here, in Birmingham, the representatives of the majority of the ratepayers had had to struggle against the persistent attempt to deprive them of the power of defending the principles and maintaining the interests of that majority. (Cheers.) Let it be remembered, this was only one of a series of questions involving the same principle. The majority of the board proposed to make large payments out of the rates for the support of industrial schools, which already received large grants from the Government—large enough to carry the current expenses of those institutions. But then they were told it was desirable to pave the courtyard of the industrial school in Gem-street, and introduce improvements into the warming

apparatus. Now, all these premises were private property; they did not belong to the ratepayers, they were not under their control, and if the managers of the school chose, they might refuse to receive a single child from the borough after this year, after having received money from the rates to improve the property of private managers. Then, by-and-by, the minority would have to discuss the scheme of education which the majority of the board would propose for the new rate schools. During the election the members of the minority anticipated that the great struggle would be in relation to that scheme; but the policy, or the want of policy—(Hear, hear)—on the part of their opponents had brought another question into the forefront; but when that scheme came on, the minority would again have to appeal to the ratepayers for their support, and he trusted the ratepayers would give it, by memorials, by petitions, and by whatever other means—which they would not speak of that night—might be thought necessary, in order that injustice might be resisted. (Cheers.) The minority were charged with being obstructive. What had they offered to obstruct? Why, there was no school board in the kingdom so far advanced in that work as the Birmingham board, and that was owing very largely to the great vigour and ability of the chairman of the Committee of Inquiries, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. (Cheers.) They were already in treaty for land to build additional schools on, the architect had received directions to prepare plans, and, so far as he knew, there was not a school board in the kingdom that had got so far. What the minority had endeavoured to obstruct, but what they had, to a certain extent, failed in obstructing, was the diversion of an education rate to purposes to which that rate should not be devoted; and they would still use all legitimate resources in their power to prevent and obstruct that. (Cheers.) They were also told they were guilty of very great illiberality in refusing to consent to this appropriation of the rates; and there was a new theory of religious liberty invented, in order to cover them with reproach. The old theory of religious liberty was a very simple and very intelligible one. It declared that no man should suffer in his person or his property, or by the loss of any political franchise or privilege, because of his religious opinions; and that no man should be required to support religious worship or teaching to which he conscientiously objected. But the new theory of religious liberty was altogether a different thing. When the majority spoke of religious liberty, they meant by it the power to rate and to tax the whole community in support of various religious opinions—what these religious opinions were, they did not seem very much to care. (Hear, hear.) He did not very much wonder that these new disciples of the principles of religious freedom had had some difficulty in constructing a satisfactory theory—(hear)—it must be remembered that they were altogether fresh at the work. (Cheers and laughter.) They belonged to a party which till only two years ago maintained in Ireland, out of national property, a Church which was regarded with deepest abhorrence by the vast majority of the Irish people; they belonged to a party which only recently surrendered, and that after severe and protracted conflict, the power to compel the whole community to support buildings which were the meeting places of the adherents to a sect; they belonged to a party which a little while before excluded Roman Catholics from the House of Commons, and Nonconformists from municipal corporations; they belonged to a party which in still earlier days made Nonconformity a crime, and punished it with fine, imprisonment, and death. People would not be expected to be very clever at theories of religious liberty who belonged to a party like that. (Loud applause.) He was reminded that night of what took place about 170 years ago in London. A famous Dissenter—one of that illustrious band of Nonconformists who had enriched our literature with imperishable treasures—was condemned to the pillory for writing one of his keen and terrible pamphlets against the ecclesiastical tyranny of his time—he (Mr. Dale) referred to the immortal author of "Robinson Crusoe," Daniel Defoe. He was condemned to the pillory, and the Nonconformists of London crowned the pillory with laurel; they drank to him as he stood there out of silver cups, they pelted him with flowers. It seemed that that process was being repeated now. The minority accepted the resolution as an assurance that, so far as that meeting was concerned, all the sophistry and all the invective directed against them by their opponents had been without effect; that the meeting retained its unshaken fidelity to the principles for which the minority were contending; and that, though the minority were unable to render to the cause of civil and religious freedom the service that they desired, their constituents were not ashamed of them—(No, no)—and were resolved to give them their support. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. JESSIE COLLINGS moved:—

That this meeting heartily approves of the action taken by the Central Nonconformist Committee in order to defeat the attempt of the majority of the school board to use the rates for sectarian purposes, and pledges itself to sustain the committee in resisting by every possible means—(cheers)—this new attempt to violate the principles of religious equality. (Cheers.)

Referring to the recent policy of the Government, he said that it had passed its educational measure by the aid of the Church party, and the price it had had to pay was the betrayal of the Nonconformists. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. S. WRIGHT seconded the resolution. A place in the minority was always unpleasant, and

he confessed that he was disappointed at the results which had arisen so far from the action of the school board. The majority had not yet decided to carry into effect the resolutions they had passed, and he trusted that they would yet, influenced by the voice of the majority of the people, decisively expressed, rescind the resolutions and act with justice. (Cheers.)

The Rev. H. W. HOLLAND supported the resolution, which was carried.

In answer to loud calls, Mr. JOS. CHAMBERLAIN came forward. Mr. Johnson had said that if there in England six men more fitted to suffer in this cause than any others, he and his colleagues were those men. (Laughter.) There might be some difference of opinion on this subject, but this he could say: that if they were called upon to suffer in the noble cause, or if any sacrifice were required in support of their principles and suffering, they suffered willingly, and that sacrifice they would readily make. (Cheers.) Mr. Dale, in complimenting his colleagues, had, with characteristic modesty, omitted all references to his own services. He (Mr. Chamberlain) was glad to have an opportunity of thankfully acknowledging the support and assistance which Mr. Dale had given to the minority; for he felt that if they were deprived of his services, they would be a minority indeed. (Cheers.) They had heard a good deal about moderate Churchmen, and they were told at the time of the election what good things they were to expect from them. These expectations had not been altogether fulfilled. In Scotland, at one time, an attempt was made to grow sea-water fish in fresh-water lakes, and the experiment failed. (Laughter.) They tried the system, and "Christopher North" said the result was "a fashionless whelk, all beard and no body." So with a similar experiment tried on moderate Churchmen, they got an animal which was all Churchman and very little moderation. (Cheers.) On one occasion he remarked, if the resolutions of the school board were carried into effect, numbers of children now enjoying the luxury of a sectarian education, at the expense of the private supporters of denominational schools, would enjoy the luxury at the expense of the ratepayers. (Shame.) Hundreds of children would learn the Church catechism in the same manner, and hundreds of Roman Catholic children would receive their education in that faith as a free gift from the Protestants of Birmingham. This anomaly, this iniquity, he and his colleagues had resisted, and would continue to resist, holding the opinion that in schools supported by the rates denominationalists had no right to interfere; and they must not be allowed to intermeddle in the concerns of the kingdom in which they had no jurisdiction. (Cheers.)

The proceedings concluded with the customary vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

At a meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday, Professor Huxley brought up the report of the committee appointed to frame a scheme of education for the board schools, and moved the adoption of the general recommendations it contained. The committee recommended that the infant schools should be mixed for children of both sexes; that in the senior schools the sexes should be separate; and that female teachers should be employed in the infant and in the girls' schools. It was further recommended that the period under which children were under instruction should be five hours during five days in the week, and that means should be taken to provide the children with drawn from religious instruction with secular instruction during the period that the religious instruction was given. The committee recommended, too, that every instance of the infliction of corporal punishment should be entered in a book, and that the head teacher should be responsible. It was also recommended that music and drill should be taught during the hours of school instruction. These recommendations were adopted with slight modifications. On the proposition that during the time of religious teaching any children withdrawn from such teaching shall receive separate instruction in secular subjects, the Rev. Mr. Waugh moved to substitute the word "may" for "shall," so as to leave it discretionary. This amendment was negatived by 28 votes to 8, and the recommendation adopted. The particular recommendations of the committee were then discussed *seriatim*. It was resolved that in the board schools the Bible shall be read, and explanations and instruction given therefrom in the principles of morality and religion, reserving the conscientious rights of parents. In the senior boys' schools, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, mensuration, and bookkeeping are to be taught. Bookkeeping was also included in the subjects to be taught in the senior girls' schools. It was further resolved that systematised object-lessons should be given, embracing in the six school years a course of elementary instruction in physical science, and serving as an introduction to the science examinations which are conducted by the Science and Art Department. A proposal to include the history of Britain in the list of subjects to be taught was objected to by Mr. Hutchins, on the ground that there was no Protestant history of England which a Roman Catholic parent would like to place in his child's hands, and he moved that the subject be omitted. After a discussion the amendment was withdrawn. Elementary geography and elementary social economy were included in the

essential subjects of instruction. The debate was adjourned.

BIRMINGHAM.—At the meeting of the board on Wednesday the chairman brought before the notice of the board a question of great importance in connection with the offers which various Nonconformist churches have made to surrender their schools to the board, for a term of years, at a nominal rent, on the condition that the religious teaching should be confined to the reading of the Scriptures without note or comment. The Chairman said it had occurred to him that the board could not accept an offer with a condition annexed which would bind future boards. The question stands adjourned.

SHEFFIELD.—Returns made to the Sheffield School Board show that school accommodation will have to be provided for about 10,000 children, the present appliances being deficient to that extent.

HECKMONDWICK.—There has been an exciting contest here in connection with the election of a school board, the result of which is that it will consist of two representatives of working men, two Churchmen, and three Dissenters. Although there was considerable excitement, all passed off pleasantly.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

The weather was very unfavourable for the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace on Friday. It did not actually rain, but the wind (which had again found itself at home in the east) was bitterly cold, and the sky was densely clouded. The official account sets forth that the Queen gave a breakfast party on Friday afternoon from half-past four to half-past seven o'clock in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, where tents had been erected and preparations made for the occasion. It is stated that Her Majesty, who looked in good spirits and remarkably well, wore a rich black silk dress, and a black bonnet, trimmed with white lace. She graciously conversed with a few of her guests, who were nearly all then assembled on the lawn.

The Queen returned to Windsor on Saturday midday. In the evening the Princess Louise, the Marquis of Lorne, the Right Hon. W. E. and Mrs. Gladstone dined with Her Majesty.

By command of the Queen a State ball was given last evening at Buckingham Palace. The Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke Wladimir of Russia, Prince Arthur, the Duke of Cambridge, and a large number of persons were present.

The Bishop of Peterborough was the preacher at the private chapel, Windsor Castle, on Sunday.

The Duke of Edinburgh has gone to Germany.

The *Post* has reason to believe that in the course of a few days the Premier will make a communication from Her Majesty to the House of Commons on the subject of a provision for her third son, Prince Arthur. The *Globe* has a rumour that the title of Duke of Ulster will be conferred upon Prince Arthur, and that the Government will propose, before the end of the session, the purchase of a Royal seat in Ireland. The *Dublin Express* says that "the Irish people will be less likely to appreciate the act as one which calls for grateful remembrance than to think that they have been made the instruments in effecting a handsome settlement for one of the younger members of the Royal Family."

It is stated that on the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to Dublin in August, there will be a review of all the troops in garrison in the Phoenix Park, and that the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne will accompany His Royal Highness.

The Queen is expected to hold a review in Bushy Park on the 30th instant. Her Majesty is expected to visit Inverary Castle during the autumn.

By Royal command, Mademoiselle Christine-Millie, the "Two-headed Nightingale," visited Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

It is stated that two of the common law judges and Sir Barnes Peacock, with a salary, will be appointed to sit on the Judicial Committee.

Lord Elcho has resigned the Chairmanship of the Council of the National Rifle Association, and the Earl of Ducie has been appointed as his successor.

Sir John Pakington has accepted the office of President of the Social Science Congress, to be held at Leeds in October next.

Mr. Richard Young, formerly M.P. for Cambridgeshire, and Mr. F. W. Truscott, a member of the Court of Common Council, were on Saturday elected sheriffs of London and Middlesex for the ensuing year.

MUSIC.

THE HANDEL FESTIVAL AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE closed on Friday with the performance of "Israel in Egypt." It is hardly necessary to state that the succession of grand double choruses descriptive of the plagues of Egypt—even those most marked with chromatic combinations—were rendered with a finish and brilliancy which left nothing to be desired. Sir Michael Costa was unable to resist the almost unanimous demand for a repetition of the "Hailstone Chorus"—that fine piece of descriptive recitative—though others, such as "He sent a thick darkness," and "But the waters overwhelmed them," were not less worthy of emphatic approbation; and Messrs. Santley and Foli were obliged to sing twice the popular bass duet, "The Lord is a man of war." The solos in "Israel" are trying, and quite subordinate to the choral combinations, but Madames

Lemmens-Sherrington, Patey, and Rudersdorf, and Mr. Ker Gedge did full justice to their meagre parts. Mr. Sims Reeves declaimed the celebrated tenor air "The enemy said" with all his wonted fire and expression, but—pointing to his throat—steadfastly declined an encore. There is no doubt that the great choruses of "Israel" were heard to far greater advantage on Friday than at either of the four preceding Festivals—a result owing not less to the marked improvement in the acoustic arrangements of the central transept, than to the more perfect training and discipline of the choral host which responded to Sir Michael Costa's baton. When the oratorio was concluded the National Anthem was given, in precisely the same manner as on the first day of the Festival; and then followed a great and well-deserved demonstration in honour of the conductor. The following is the number of visitors who have attended each Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace from 1857 to 1871:—

1857.—Rehearsal, 5,844; 1st day, 8,629; 2nd day, 9,149; 3rd day, 14,792—total, 38,414. 1859.—Rehearsal, 19,680; 1st day, 17,109; 2nd day, 17,703; 3rd day, 26,827—total, 81,319. 1862.—Rehearsal, 19,163; 1st day, 15,694; 2nd day, 14,143; 3rd day, 18,567—total, 67,567. 1865.—Rehearsal, 15,420; 1st day, 13,677; 2nd day, 14,915; 3rd day, 18,422—total, 59,434. 1868.—Rehearsal, 18,597; 1st day, 19,217; 2nd day, 21,650; 3rd day, 23,101—total, 82,465. 1871.—Rehearsal, 18,676; 1st day, 21,946; 2nd day, 21,830; 3rd day, 23,016—total, 84,968.

It will thus be seen [that the aggregate attendance at this Festival was greater than at any which preceded.

ALBERT HALL ORATORIOS.—Last Monday Mr. G. W. Martin, well-known for his musical enterprise, tried the experiment of an oratorio in the Albert Hall. The subject chosen was the "Messiah," which was splendidly delivered, so far as choruses were concerned, by more than a thousand performers, and heard with delight by an audience numbering, we should judge, nearly six thousand. The success of the experiment was so great that Mr. Martin intends to repeat it, and there will be oratorios on several successive Mondays.

Postscript.

Wednesday, June 28, 1871.

NONCONFORMIST MEETING AT LEICESTER.—A meeting of Nonconformists, called by public advertisement, was held in the Temperance Hall, Leicester, yesterday evening, George Baines, Esq., J.P., in the chair. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—Moved by the Rev. Dr. Hayercroft (Baptist), seconded by Mr. Councillor Kempson (Unitarian), and supported by Mr. W. Collier (Weeleyan), "That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable to form a Nonconformist Committee in Leicester, which shall watch public events in their bearing upon the position and rights of Nonconformists, and shall take such action thereon as may from time to time be deemed expedient." Moved by the Rev. A. Mackennal, B.A. (Congregationalist), seconded by Mr. Alderman Stevenson (Baptist), and supported by the Rev. C. C. Coe (Unitarian), "That, in the judgment of this meeting, such a committee should consist of both representative and personal members, who shall have equal rights in attending, speaking and voting at all the meetings of the committee. That the representative members should be the minister and two other delegates from each Nonconformist congregation in the town which contributes not less than half-a-guinea annually to the funds of the committee. That the personal members should be elected, from Nonconformists resident in Leicester, by the committee, and that they should contribute not less than five shillings each annually to the fund." It was also moved by the Rev. J. Wood (Congregationalist), seconded by Mr. Clow (Free Methodist), and supported by the Rev. J. Ker, M.A. (Presbyterian):—"That a committee be appointed to take immediate steps to carry the foregoing resolutions into effect; that they request the Nonconformist congregations of Leicester to elect delegates forthwith; and that they summon the delegates whose names are sent in to them as soon as convenient; and that the committee consist of the following gentlemen, viz.:—the Rev. C. C. Coe, the Rev. R. Harley, F.R.S., the Rev. N. Hayercroft, D.D., the Rev. J. Ker, M.A., the Rev. A. F. Macdonald, M.A., the Rev. A. Mackennal, B.A., the Rev. J. C. Pike, the Rev. T. Stevenson, the Rev. G. H. Thompson, the Rev. J. L. Whitley, the Rev. J. Wood, Mr. George Baines, Mr. W. Baines, Mr. J. Bennett, Mr. Clow, Mr. J. Coy, Mr. W. Kempson, Mr. T. D. Paul, Mr. A. McCall, Mr. Roscoe, Mr. W. Stanyon, Mr. G. Stevenson, Mr. Walker, and the Rev. R. Harley, F.R.S., secretary *pro tem*."

ECCLESIASTICAL MOTIONS.—In the Commons last night, Mr. Fawcett gave notice that on that day week he should move for leave to introduce a bill to abolish religious tests in the governing bodies of Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Dublin. Mr. Cowper-Temple gave notice that on the 28th of July he should move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the Act of Uniformity.

It is rumoured that the Rev. Dr. Angus is about to retire from the post of Principal of the Baptist College at Regent's-park, which he has occupied for nearly twenty years.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE, 28, 1871.

SUMMARY.

THE chief news from France relates to the loan of eighty millions sterling, which is being eagerly taken up in Paris, and is likely to be subscribed several times over by the numerous small French capitalists who have a perfect craving for investments in Government securities. All indications at present seem to favour of the Government *de facto*, which expect to secure as large a number as eighty out of the 114 elections to take place on Sunday next. The Republicans are rallying strongly under the banner of Louis Blanc and Gambetta to the side of M. Thiers as the best bulwark against the monarchical reactionists. The *Times* correspondent at Versailles thus clearly defines the situation:—"There are three aspirants to the Crown in the field—Henry V., by divine right and the will of the Rurals; the Comte de Paris; and, finally, the Exile of Chislehurst. All three are active, either by their chiefs or by their adherents; all of them cherish lively hopes, and are impatient of success. But the Republicans are also strong and determined, and it is certain that no Pretender to the throne could attain his end without fighting for it. An attempt of the kind would infallibly lead to civil war. There is no doubt that a large part of the army, including very many officers, is strongly Republican. In the old Army of the Rhine, the whole of which will soon have returned to France, the Napoleons are highly unpopular. What I hear from all quarters is that the name is detested in both armies, the old and the new. The only chance of the Orleans family is to be sought in a fusion with the childless elder branch. As for Henri V., stoutly as he is supported by the rural districts, and willing though he may be to accept a very liberal constitution if France will only accept him, there is no perceptible leaning towards him on the part of any large portion of the nation, and many are afraid of the policy they fear he would be compelled to adopt certain questions. The tone of the Royalist and High Church party towards Italy is such as fully to warrant the fear that some day the peace and interests of France would be sacrificed to support Papal pretensions. The great majority of the French nation is in no way disposed to risk involvement in serious wars for the sake of the Pope, and to have Prussia sending reinforcements to Italy by the new St. Gothard Railway. After all, perhaps, a moderate Republic is the most likely solution, at least for the present."

The King of Italy has arrived at Naples on his way to Rome, which will on Saturday next be formally constituted the capital of Italy. Thither the Government establishments are now being removed, and probably the majority of the foreign representatives will follow the Italian Ministry. It is difficult to believe that when the Austrian Envoy goes to Rome, the French Minister will remain in the sulks at Florence. Though it is given out that when Victor Emmanuel arrives, Pius IX. will take refuge on the soil of France, we must hear of the event before we can believe it. The behaviour of the Romans during the celebration of the Pope's Jubilee was most exemplary, though the city was invaded by thousands of fanatical pilgrims, and though there were many provocations to anti-Papal demonstrations. If the

peace of the Eternal City and the free action of the Vatican have been at all placed in peril, it has been by English aristocratic devotees, whose zeal in pulling down the Italian tricolour outran their discretion. More improbable events might occur than a hand-shaking between the Pope and the King.

It is gratifying to record that the London address of the International Society, which, it may be remembered, justified the conflagrations and massacres in Paris, has been repudiated by Mr. Odger, Mr. Lucraft, and other English artisan leaders, whose names were "officially" appended to a document they had never seen. Both these individuals—and it is the least they could do—have resigned their seats on the council of the International by way of protest. By the side of that truculent manifesto the programme of working-class demands, as sketched in our columns by Mr. George Potter (whose last letter on the subject we give elsewhere), will appear very moderate. If only the artisans' leaders could cordially unite on some common basis, they would better serve their object than by coquetting with harebrained foreign revolutionists.

The Government Ballot Bill is now fairly launched, and is not apparently to meet with factious opposition. At the outset on Thursday, Mr. Disraeli and Mr. Hardy tried to create a panic relative to the Premier's hint of further organic changes in the direction of a redistribution of seats and a boundary bill, but Mr. Gladstone promptly disclaimed the interpretation put upon his language. The first night's discussion was chiefly remarkable for Mr. Leatham's and Mr. Stansfeld's powerful defence of secret voting on the ground of expediency; for Mr. Baillie Cochrane's avowal of conversion to the ballot because of the Conservative tendencies of the working classes; and for Mr. Plunket's eloquent denunciation of the bill from the Irish point of view—the hon. members predicting the return of a majority of Repealers by its agency. On Monday Mr. Maguire, who supports the ballot, also expressed his belief that some fifty Nationalists would be returned for Ireland at the next election, but the Marquis of Hartington, in his vigorous speech, manfully avowed his preference for such a misfortune, to the scenes of violence which occurred at nearly every Irish election, and almost with impunity. The exhaustive and temperate argument of Mr. H. James in favour of the principle of secret voting, contrasted favourably with Mr. Hardy's wild denunciation of the "system of lying and imposture" which he said it would create. The debate will be resumed to-morrow night, and there cannot be any doubt that the House will decide to go into committee by a very large majority.

The conflict over the Army Bill is not yet ended. There is to be a debate upon the Report on Friday, which, if not then concluded will be resumed on Saturday. But the threat of an extra sitting will effectually curtail the loquacity of the Opposition. Their opportunity will come on Monday next, when Mr. Graves is to meet the motion for the third reading by a specious resolution, skilfully framed to catch Radical votes. With matchless effrontery, it demands that the whole subject be postponed till "a mature and comprehensive scheme of army reform" is produced—the Government plan having, as every one knows, been cut down to the abolition of purchase solely in consequence of the factious opposition of the Tories. Such tactics are too barefaced to succeed. We imagine that the measure will pass with such a majority as will deter the Lords—who must, as a money bill, accept or reject it entire—from using their veto, and provoking a serious collision between the two Houses.

This has been a session of surprises, delays, and inconsistencies not creditable to Parliamentary Government. Thus, on Wednesday last, the Commons, after a full debate, consented by 147 to 119 to read a second time Mr. Rylands' bill for prohibiting the sale of liquors on Sundays except to travellers and lodgers; but on the understanding that there should be no absolute prohibition, but only a restriction of the hours of traffic. The eagerness of Mr. Rylands to push forward proved fatal to his bill. It was down for Monday, and the motion to go into committee came on long after midnight. The opponents of the measure mustered more strongly than its ostensible friends, not half of whom were present, and the bill was thrown out by 69 to 51. We suppose this is the end of all attempts at liquor traffic legislation for the session, the Home Secretary's regulation bill having apparently no chance. Mr. Bruce has certainly been unlucky this year. He hoped, no doubt, to make his mark on the page of social reform, but has got no further than good intentions and a pitiable exhibition of blundering.

THE BALLOT DEBATE.

THE debate in the House of Commons on the motion that "the Speaker leave the chair," in order that the House may go into committee on the Elections (Parliamentary and Municipal) Bill, has already occupied two nights, and will probably exhaust the whole of to-morrow night, before it is concluded. It is impossible to assign a reasonable cause for this prolixity. Certainly, whatever may be the eagerness of right hon. and hon. members to "deliver their souls" on this important subject, it cannot be said that any of them have yet succeeded in raising the discussion to a tone of liveliness. It moves on sluggishly in a circumambient course, and is watched by a thinly-attended House with evidently languid interest. Yet it can hardly be pretended that either side of the House is indifferent to the fate of the measure. The absence of excitement, in so far as the debate is concerned, is no doubt due to the fact that the issue of it is clearly foreseen. There is an almost perfect unanimity, on the Liberal side, in favour of the measure—such a unanimity, indeed, as was common enough during the first session of the present Parliament—but which appeared to be hopelessly broken by the line adopted by the Government on the Elementary Education Bill last session. There can be little doubt that the principle of the Ballot Bill will be affirmed by a very large majority, and to this certainty it may be owing that the protraction of the debate has been acquiesced in by the Government, and that the long-drawn-out substance of it attracts comparatively little attention.

We shall not trouble our readers with any attempted summary of the speeches that have been delivered on the question. None of them take a very high position. The theory of the question was fairly expounded about a quarter of a century ago by the late Mr. Grote, who really left nothing more to be said upon this aspect of the matter. The question now rests, not so much upon abstract reasons, as upon the facts and circumstances which bear upon the case, and those facts, so far, at least, as they are relevant to the point at issue, tell mainly in one direction. Australia furnishes us with as complete an example as we could desire of the ballot in a state of successful operation. The only plausible answer to this is that Australia does not present the same conditions as those which attach themselves to elections in the United Kingdom, and that, consequently, the efficacy of the ballot in the colony cannot be accepted as an earnest of its efficacy in the mother country. This is an extremely easy assertion to make, but, so far as we are able to perceive, it has been made without an atom of proof. Previously to the adoption of the ballot in Australia, elections in that part of the world very closely resembled elections in this. Open voting was accompanied by the same evils there as here—bribery, treating, intimidation, drunkenness, and rioting. No doubt, these evils were modified in the colony by the special conditions of its population; but, as a matter of fact, it cannot be denied that the adoption of the secret ballot has so far minimised them as almost to ensure their extinction. Why the same process should not operate in the like manner in the United Kingdom, it is difficult to see. We should have supposed that the intenser forms in which the evils manifest themselves at home might fairly be looked upon as reasons for expecting from the Ballot a more striking success, than where those forms have been less distinct and various.

The objection to the ballot—that it is "un-English"—has at length been dropped; but a very similar one has been substituted for it. It is now unmanly; it is described as a most humiliating necessity, if it be a necessity at all; its result, it is said, will demoralise the political character of the people. These are showy words, and, perhaps, are intended to indicate a high feeling of morality; but, really, to talk of manliness, honesty, and moral character, as though they characterised the system of open voting, suggests to any one who is tolerably well informed of the inner processes of an election, that such allusions must be made in irony. Is it possible to conceive of deeper humiliation than that which is exhibited to the civilised world by this country during the fortnight or three weeks occupied by a general election? Where is the manliness? where the honour? where the morality and religion of electoral managers on the one hand, or of manipulated constituencies on the other? Who has ever passed through a borough, or a chief county town, whilst an election is proceeding within it, without seeing on every hand abundant proofs of the base external influences that are being brought to bear upon the population. Everybody must be aware—at least everybody who has tried the experiment—how

difficult it is to take any active part in organising electoral forces for a severe contest without being irresistibly dragged into contact with scenes and combinations which left or ought to have left a stain upon his conscience. It is the merest nonsense to talk of "a gradual improvement" in this respect, or to anticipate that the system of open voting will, if left alone, slowly but surely work itself clear of the worst evils with which it is now associated.

One conclusion, we think, has clearly come out during the course of the debate. Whether the elector be regarded as a trustee, or merely as a citizen bound to fulfil conscientiously a political obligation, he is entitled to such protection as will enable him to give his own vote, and not that which is forced upon him by outside influences. The only question, therefore, that has to be settled, is whether he is more likely to do this when he is shut off by the ballot from the seductive or the coercive appliances by which it is sought to sway his will, without changing his judgment; or whether he will have the most favourable opportunity of doing so if, while recording his vote, he is left alone with his conscience. It may be possible to send men to the ballot-box so utterly perverted by the agencies to which they have been previously exposed, that they will do of their own will that which is most in accordance with the will of those who have tampered with their independence. But, surely, it is well to give even to such men a *locus penitentie* before they have finally committed themselves; and, taking the constituencies as a whole, it will be difficult, we think, to convince any unbiassed mind that the representative character of a House of Commons elected by the ballot will not approximate more closely to the actual political sentiment of the country, than under the open system which so many others seem intent upon preserving.

THE FINANCIAL POLICY OF M. THIERS.

AMONG a people less careless and more versed in political philosophy than the French, the great financial speech of the Chief of the Executive last week would excite consternation. M. Thiers, in avowing his Protectionist leanings, said he was too old to change his views. He spoke truly. All the old prejudices, fallacies, and delusions of the veteran statesman either found expression in, or underlie, his speech before the National Assembly. He has, as it has been pithily said, learned nothing and forgotten everything. That M. Thiers should still have faith in France—in her greatness and recuperative power—is certainly not to be condemned. His countrymen unquestionably need to be raised from despondency. Still more do they require to profit by the lessons of the unhappy past. It is just here that M. Thiers' guidance breaks down. His fiat or declarations, however emphatic, will not repair the fearful ravages of war and of a prolonged domestic rebellion, nor restore the damaged prestige of his country. To accept the situation, and patiently pursue a policy which would reduce and equalise the public burdens—to put peace in the foreground, and to advise the nation to bend all its energies to the development of its vast resources—would surely have been more wise and becoming than to indulge in stilted bombast about France establishing "her immortal greatness in the near future." Our neighbour is once more in danger of being sacrificed to big and hollow phrases.

M. Thiers last week became for the occasion his own Chancellor of the Exchequer. He was as frank and straightforward as Mr. Lowe can be, and he denounced with becoming warmth the hocus-pocus of Imperialist budgets spreading over several years, which simply threw dust in the eyes of the nation, and concealed its growing financial difficulties. The Chief of the Executive made a clean breast as to the pecuniary position of the country. The war with Germany has cost some 320 millions sterling, including the indemnity to Germany, and the expense of repairing the defences of Paris, and rebuilding the destroyed parts of the city. This addition to the National Debt will entail an annual charge of 14,200,000*l.*—or 22,240,000*l.*, including all debts and loans—in addition to the ordinary current expenditure, which of late years has amounted to eighty-five millions sterling annually. The forthcoming loan of eighty millions will, after meeting the first instalments of the German indemnity, leave a balance of sixteen millions for the reduction of the adverse balances of 1870-1.

The French Government have to provide for an annual expenditure of 107 millions, and do not see their way to any considerable reductions of this enormous outlay. The hope is held out that some five millions may be saved in the civil establishment, but none in the army and none in the navy. When M. Thiers was at Bordeaux it was announced that the military forces would be reorganised from the foundations, and

the marine reduced to very small proportions. That policy has now been wholly abandoned. The army is to be kept up to its present footing, which can only mean that France must be prepared for another aggressive war—her present forces being out of all proportion to her internal requirements. The folly of M. Thiers is even more manifest in the decision to keep up the naval expenditure, because there are no vast commercial interests or important colonies requiring protection. Crushed down by burdens such as few countries have ever borne, France is to remain an armed nation, and not a breath of discredit is cast upon those aggressive aspirations which have for generations been the curse of that country. Such downright infatuation is pitiable!

While her "immortal greatness" requires, according to M. Thiers, that France should not abate her armaments, this enormous expenditure is to be met in the worst possible way. The head of the Government derides the very idea of an income-tax. Our experience shows how such an impost, by pressing directly upon the well-to-do classes, engenders a demand for economy. But retrenchment does not suit the grand ideas of the veteran statesman. Ignorant of the first principles of sound finance, he proposes to meet the interest on the new debt wholly by indirect taxation—that is, by protective imposts. Taxes on raw material, taxes on imports, increased duties on liquors, increased stamp duties—such is the notable expedient by which the increased liabilities of France are to be met. What short-sighted selfishness! The merest tyro in political economy could teach this infatuated financier that he will gain a minimum of revenue from other nations by inflicting a maximum of injury on his own country. The recuperative energy of which M. Thiers boasts was, in a great measure, the offspring of the liberal commercial policy under the Empire. That is now to be reversed. A policy which cripples trade, diminishes consumption and restricts production, is to be resumed at a time when France especially needs an unrestricted industrial life.

Such is the disastrous policy which the National Assembly applauds to the echo as the grand panacea of her foremost statesman. While Europe is sighing for repose, M. Thiers unfurls the old aggressive flag. Germany will be sternly suspicious; Italy nervously apprehensive; every nation will feel that the era of disquiet and panic is to be prolonged. France herself, though stricken down, resolves to burn the candle at both ends—raising taxes which fetter the national industry; wasting them in unproductive and burdensome armaments—meditating the restoration of the Monarchy, but keeping up the Imperialist army on its old footing. M. Thiers may imagine that he is thereby upholding the greatness of his country, and paving the way for an Orleanist dynasty. To our thinking he is working unconsciously, but with terrible effect for a reaction in favour of the Empire. Just in proportion as his insane policy takes effect, will his countrymen sigh for a restoration of that régime which, whatever its faults and crimes, laboured with signal success to promote the material interests of France and develop her immense resources.

HOW WE ARE GROWING.

GROWTH is a condition of life, and an essential condition of national life. Hence it has become almost an axiom with political economists that increase of prosperity is impossible without increase of population, and that the one inevitably accompanies the other. The increase of population is, in the first place, due to increased resources of living. The observation is that at a time of national depression marriages are few, and that at a time of national elevation marriages are numerous. As a rule, men do not marry unless they can see their way to support a wife and family, and they do not marry until their resources enable them to do so. The man must become "better off" than he has been before he takes to himself a wife. When he does become "better off," and has his senses about him, he is pretty sure to do this. Hence the connection between increased wealth and increased population.

Taking the Census of 1871 as evidence in point, England has scarcely ever been in a more prosperous state than it has been during the last ten years, or than it is now. From 1811 to 1821 the population increased at the rate of eighteen per cent.; but that was after a period of war to which there had been no precedent in the history of this country. In the next ten years the increase was at the rate of sixteen per cent.; in the next—from 1831 to 1841—it was fourteen per cent.; from 1841 to 1851 it was only thirteen, and from 1851 to 1861 it was only twelve per cent. In these remarkable changes great account has to be taken of the

emigration movement which has surely and steadily prevented the ordinary and natural increase of the people. But still there has been a rebound, and, instead of the ratio of diminution going on as it has, it has not merely stopped, but turned the other way. At present the inhabitants of the United Kingdom are set down in these returns at 31,465,480, against a total of 29,321,288 in 1861. We are, therefore, as a community, over two millions more numerous than at the last decennial period—the increase having been at the rate of thirteen per cent.

It is almost impossible adequately to appreciate the value of these figures. Every person now born is born into a society or nation of increased education, intelligence, and culture. He is a stimulus to increased exertion, and therefore a stimulus to increased wealth. He himself, as he grows up, produces more wealth, and adds to the national stock. He adds also to the national stock of culture, and helps, as men have helped through all the past ages, to bring the standard of culture to a higher point. In this way a nation misses every capable man who departs from it, whether by death or by emigration. The departure is so much loss, and tells, surely and inevitably, upon the national wealth.

The figures that have been placed before us by the Census Commissioners are, however, very general. We are strengthening our stakes and lengthening our lines, but how and where? We have not yet all the details, but it is quite certain that the rural population is still decreasing, and that the urban population is still increasing. Country life is fast giving way to town life, not because of the greater pleasure, but solely because of the greater rewards of the latter. The cities are increasing, the villages are diminishing. What has followed, and what will follow from this? Wealth will increase, as a certainty, but politics at the same time will change. The increase of town populations means the increase of town ideas; and town ideas are not those of country squires and the country clergy. The gravitation of the people to the great hives of business is always either accompanied or immediately followed by their gravitation to increased intelligence, and, united to that, to increased liberalism. The Dorsetshire labourer transplanted, as is often the case now, to a manufacturing district, leaves his stupidity, and with his stupidity his mediæval politics, behind him. In a year he becomes another man. The lout is probably transformed into the active artisan. The Census of 1871 shows us that this process is going on in increased ratio. The quality, therefore, as well as the number of the people, is increasing. Day by day, and year by year, strength is being added to every liberal and intelligent movement. The result is, so far as we have yet gone, the England of 1871—a land that grows; whose recognition of, and sympathy with, all kinds of truth is obviously increasing, and who still shows no tendency in any department of her life, to stop still. Once let the population cease to follow the laws of nature, and we should find ourselves retrograding in every channel of national life.

This, to us, is the chief value of the Census. It gives corroborative proof of progress, and gives at the same time encouragement to believe in the possibility of still higher and higher progress. Unless the hand of God be placed upon us in punishment we shall not stop where we are. Our numbers will still increase. We shall be able to afford, as we have afforded, the transplantation of our sons and daughters to other soils, and to see with gladness that they carry our ideas, our feelings, and our institutions with them. We shall go on, and only national depravity will stop our progress.

What, however, are we to say of Ireland? Here, again, the melancholy tale of a decreased population has to be told. In England we had last April 22,704,108 persons. There was a time when the population of Ireland was more than a third of this number. It is now less than a fourth, amounting to only 5,402,759. This is a terrible index of continued national depression. There are absolutely fewer persons in Ireland by more than 396,000 than there were in 1861. To a great extent we, as an English nation, are responsible for this, but we believe that the effect of the legislation of the last two years will be so felt in 1881 that the tide will be again turned and Ireland enter upon a career of substantial prosperity.

DETACHED NOTES.

In his speech at the Cobden Club dinner, Earl Granville mentioned, with characteristic felicity of expression, an interesting fact relative to "his illustrious friend and fellow-labourer, John Bright." "During Whitsuntide," he said, "when in attendance on Her Majesty at Balmoral, I had the

immense pleasure of receiving from him a communication written with his usual spirit, and talking of his recovery as being very near. I communicated the fact to Her Majesty, who desired me at once to telegraph to Mr. Bright that if he thought it prudent in regard to his health, she hoped he would come and spend two or three days in retirement at Balmoral." Gracious as was this invitation, and honourable alike to our thoughtful Queen and her disabled subject, it is easy to imagine reasons why Mr. Bright did not feel equal to its acceptance. Those of our working men who are in such haste to discard the monarchy, might well note the incident as a proof not less of Her Majesty's catholicity than of her readiness to appreciate rectitude, patriotism, and public service in the case of Radical politicians as well as those of more moderate opinions.

"It's a long lane that has no turning." The other day we were reading of a fall of snow in the North of England, and of the numbed fingers of suburban strawberry-pickers. Summer weather, if not come, seems really to be coming. The sun, so long lost to view behind banks of dismal leaden clouds, is beginning to assert his rights, warming the atmosphere, and putting an end to "the winter of our discontent." The late rains have done both good and harm—injuring the early-cut hay, but reviving garden produce. Mr. Mechi thus reports from his model farm in Essex:—

Beans, peas, carrots, parsnips, and onions promise abundantly, and potatoes are especially healthy. So it is also in well-drained and well-farmed lands; for, although the wheat plants are less bulky than usual, the developed ears roll heavily in the wind. An immense area of pasture (23,000,000 acres) is gratefully responding to the much-required moisture, and the after-crop is almost a certainty.

The accounts from some other counties, such as Yorkshire, are not so favourable, and speak of mildew and vermin. The harvest is likely to be ten days or a fortnight later than last year, if it should not be deficient in bulk, owing to "the devastations of unusually prevalent destructive insects," and to the lack of sunshine. Probably, as the warmth increases, these discouraging reports will subside. Our troubles with vermin are not so serious as those which worry our Yankee cousins. A peculiar kind of beetle has been steadily advancing for some years from California in countless millions, and has now reached the Eastern States, eating up the potato plants in its progress, and creating a devastation for which no remedy can be found. The farmers can only fold their hands in despair at the approach of this army of creeping locusts.

It is matter for regret that our daily papers were not able to spare some of the space devoted to dreary parliamentary talk and verbose Paris letters in order to report the annual meeting of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes, held last week at Willis's Rooms. Though the affairs of this society are not in so flourishing a state as that presided over by Sir Sydney Waterlow—being unable to pay more than 4½ per cent.—it is doing a good work, and has got upon the right track. Its future aim will be rather to improve old dwellings than to build new ones. How this may be done with the most beneficial results was explained by the Earl of Shaftesbury, who has made this question his own, and who remarked, with great truth, that the great want of the day is an improved domiciliary condition of the working people. His lordship said, in the course of a telling speech:—

The state of things which is growing up in this great capital and in all our great towns is of the most formidable description. If any one doubts this, let him even during the day, and still more after nightfall, go into some of the recesses of London, walk through some of the by-streets, and observe hundreds and thousands of human beings lying about in a state of filth and neglect, and ready to commit any act of desperation, if an opportunity should present itself. The remedy must be provided by the combined efforts of every intellect and every heart, prompted by the deep conviction of every one, that the real security of the empire—I mean politically and socially—depends upon the improved moral and physical condition of the great mass of the working population. There is no need for proof. We have it in the fact that in the improved dwellings disease has been abolished. A few years ago Tyndall's-buildings was one of the most filthy places that the eye of man ever rested upon, or the senses of man were ever affected by. I can answer for that myself, because I was one of those who discovered Tyndall's-buildings, and never shall I forget as long as I live the atrocious filth, the abominable disorder, and all the terrors, physical and moral, which then beset the human senses. Now see the different character of the inhabitants, the altered condition of affairs. A medical officer told me that whereas formerly he sent twenty-two cases of fever to the hospital in one year, during the last twelve or fourteen years there has hardly been a single case of fever. Formerly the police never ventured to go down that court except in pairs; now it is not necessary for them to go there at all, in such excellent order is the place kept.

It was an American who has munificently provided for improving the dwellings of the London poor, and a fellow-countrywoman of Mr. Peabody has recently contributed 200,000*l.* to promote the same object in New York. Is it not time that some of our English millionaires imitated their noble example?

It is hard to say whether the rate-collector or the tax-gatherer is the more lynx-eyed and obnoxious to the British citizen. Probably the former, seeing that the rates seem to be ever swelling both in area and amount. While a Bill before Parliament for exempting educational and religious institutions from rates is vainly striving to make progress amid the general legislative block, overseers are in some places doing their utmost to increase the rates by straining the law. Thus we find the following particulars of an appeal case heard last week before the Recorder of Manchester:—

The appeal was brought by the trustees of the Rev. Alexander M'Laren's Union Chapel, Oxford-road, Manchester, against a levy of the Chorlton overseers, and the question at issue was the liability, or otherwise, to parish rates, of certain appurtenances of the chapel which had been hitherto exempted, as being an undivided part of a building used for public worship. The premises in question consisted only of the ordinary adjuncts of a large church or chapel, including vestry, class, and reception rooms, kitchen and living apartments for the chapel-keeper, and cellars containing the heating and ventilating apparatus for the chapel, but it was contended by the overseers that the apparatus were not devoted exclusively to religious purposes, some having been used occasionally for the transaction of business and the meetings of a Dorcas Clothing Society, and that their occupation, therefore, was of a beneficial nature which destroyed their immunity from rating. This novel argument was substantially endorsed by the Recorder, who, though not free from doubt on the point, ruled that the chapel trustees were liable to assessment in respect of the premises rated, inasmuch as these were not wholly used for public worship, and profit or advantage was presumably derived from their occupation.

Whatever be the equity of the case—a point we do not feel called upon to raise—there is no doubt this rigid interpretation of the law, if confirmed, will be a great trouble to the trustees and proprietors of buildings devoted to religious purposes, and that if such auxiliary premises are liable to the rates on the ground that they are not used exclusively for purposes of religious worship, a very serious additional burden will be cast upon the congregation or their minister.

The discussion which so often goes on in private to the disadvantage of our great English tenor will now, we should think, be set at rest. Mr. Sims Reeves was engaged to sing at the Handel Festival in the Crystal Palace, but was able to appear at only two out of the four performances, owing to a cold and hoarseness—thereby incurring a very heavy pecuniary loss. If this is "caprice," it is a highly expensive indulgence. That Mr. Reeves has a very delicate throat as well as a superb voice is manifest from a trial which is proceeding before the Edinburgh Sheriffs Court, in which he is the defendant. The evidence given by him as taken on commission is worth quoting as confirming this view. Last November Mr. Sims Reeves travelled down to Edinburgh to fulfil an engagement with the Choral Union. He says:—

On our way from Carlisle to Edinburgh the weather became very foggy, a thaw having set in; it was very damp and raw. As I proceeded on my journey I found that my throat became affected. Interrogated: On coming to Edinburgh did you apply remedies to your throat? Depones: Yes; immediately before dinner. These remedies consisted of an application to the throat of new flannel dipped in strong whisky confined by oilskin, with belladonna taken inwardly. These remedies relieved me slightly. I did not find the atmosphere of the concert-room to affect me. I sang parts 3, 6, and 11 of the "Prodigal Son." In commencing to sing No. 11 I found my voice becoming affected and getting worse, and I was compelled to force and strain my voice with pain and discomfort to myself. The next part I had to sing was in the duet under No. 13. While singing in this duet I found my throat becoming very painful, and my voice almost toneless. I did my utmost, but the exertion was too much for me, and I was unable to sing any more. Mr. Arthur Sullivan was the conductor, and I went up to him and said that I was unable to sing any more. This was immediately after I had finished No. 13. Mr. Sullivan is the composer of the "Prodigal Son." After making this intimation to Mr. Sullivan I found my throat so bad that I returned to the hotel for remedies for immediate application. On getting there I immediately sent my servant back to the hall for the purpose of intimating to the secretary the inflammatory state of my throat. I applied severe remedies to my throat, but I was still so ill and so hoarse as to make it quite impossible for me to return to the hall, and for six or seven weeks afterwards my voice was so seriously affected by the strain upon it that I was obliged to relinquish engagements.

The case as we have said, is still pending. A splendid voice may be a fortune to its possessor, but in this instance there is a serious drawback.

Probably Mr. Sims Reeves is far more distressed than the public at his frequent inability to fulfil his engagements.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS BILLS.

On Thursday the Earl of SHAFTESBURY withdrew his bills for the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts in consequence of the lateness of the session, and gave notice that he should reintroduce them next year.

Earl BEAUCHAMP wished to correct a statement of the noble earl, namely, that the Purchas case had occupied three years, and had cost 8,000*l.* on one side. In point of fact, he was informed by the proctors that the suit had really lasted from October, 1869, to the 23rd of February, 1871; and that it cost 2,000*l.*, of which 1,500*l.* went in counsel's fees. The Earl of SHAFTESBURY said he had made a mistake—it was the Bennett which was 8,000*l.*; but he desired to see the ecclesiastical law so altered that it might be enforced with the ease and simplicity of a county court judgment.

Some conversation relative to ecclesiastical courts of appeal followed. Lord SALISBURY urged that these questions should be settled exclusively by lawyers, and that to ask a bishop to lay down the law in the last resort was as absurd as to appeal to an admiral or the commander-in-chief on a question of naval or military law. Moreover, a supreme court of appeal ought to have a fixed constitution, and should not be left to accident or the private arrangement of the registrar. Lord GRANVILLE explained that Mr. Reeve (the Registrar) always consulted the Lord President as to the composition of the court in each case, and the matter was sometimes even brought before the Cabinet. Lord CAIRNS protested against the notion that every Privy Councillor had not a right to attend whenever he chose. Mr. Reeve, he said, merely communicated with different members, so as to ensure a sufficient attendance. The Lord CHANCELLOR confirmed this view, and the Archbishop of CANTERBURY added that the bishops were always ready to defer to their legal colleagues on points of law. Lord CARNARVON remarked that the two Archbishops and the Bishop of London were the only prelates who sat in the Judicial Committee, and there was no power of summoning the most competent theologians to join the court unless they were first made Privy Councillors.

On Friday the Lord CHANCELLOR submitted a bill for the more effectual repression of crime, which was read a first time. The Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, Amendment Bill, was read a third time.

ENDOWED SCHOOLS.

Some remarks were made by the Earl of CARNARVON, in presenting a petition against the action of the Endowed Schools Commissioners in Dr. Morgan's Charity and Schools at Bridgwater. The charity was founded in 1723, and Dr. Morgan's will declared in the most clear and precise terms that no one should be admitted to his school save members of the Church of England. The institution had flourished, though there was no conscience clause; Dissenters had freely availed themselves of it; and no complaint had ever been made of its management. But the Endowed Schools Commissioners, though reciting Dr. Morgan's wish in the preamble of their scheme, had completely revolutionised the character of his schools. It allowed a portion of the governing body to be elected by the school board and town council; it abolished membership in the Church of England as a qualification for the mastership; and it left the religious teaching of the school to the master and to the governing body. He doubted very much whether the scheme was in conformity with the provisions of the Act.

The Marquis of RIFON thought the noble earl had overlooked the provisions of the Endowed Schools Act, which left the commissioners no option but to open the school to Nonconformists under a conscience clause. On this point they had no discretion. As to the governing body, the four members to be elected by the Town Council and the school board might possibly be Dissenters, though he should hope these bodies would see the inconvenience, not to say impropriety, of selecting Nonconformist trustees for a Church of England school; but, even if they did so, the Church of England trustees would always be a large majority. There were six *ex officio* governors, four of whom must necessarily be Churchmen, as they were the occupants of ecclesiastical offices, and six others were named, all members of the Church of England. The latter were to be reduced by death to four, who would be co-opted governors—viz., persons elected by the whole body, and they would therefore in all probability be Churchmen. The noble earl had spoken slightly of the recitals, but in his opinion they governed the whole scheme, and no religious teaching could be given except that of the Church of England, Nonconformist parents being able to claim exemption from this for their children. He could not see therefore that the Church of England character of the school was superseded.

Lord LYTTELTON was of opinion that the general questions of the relations between endowments and elementary education, local or other privileges,

and the amount of deference to be paid to founders' wills, would be more conveniently discussed on Lord Salisbury's motion respecting Emanuel Hospital. As to this particular case, the new trustees would be guilty of an express breach of trust, for which they could be called to account by a proper tribunal, if they did not take care that the children were instructed in the doctrines of the Church of England. The commissioners had only obeyed the injunctions of the Act in admitting Dissenting children as day scholars under a conscience clause, and, as to local privileges, they held that the best thing for the educational interests of the class who had hitherto enjoyed the benefits of a foundation, especially in a small place like Bridgewater, was to establish a thoroughly good school, and to throw it open freely to all those who could avail themselves of it. With regard to Clause 19 of the Act, the commissioners were bound to give it a strict construction. The whole tendency and spirit of the Act was, in the view of the commissioners, to give the largest freedom to the local managers and authorities in the conduct of the school, and especially in respect to its religious conduct. In the Ilminster School case, which was well known to lawyers, the school was held to be strictly a Church of England one, and the Court of Chancery was called upon to reconstitute the school, and to nominate the first governing body, and it was asked—as the Endowed Schools Commissioners were asked in the present instance to do—to lay down the regulation that nobody should be in the governing body who was not a member of the Church of England. The Ilminster school was subject to a conscience clause, and the Court of Chancery said it was a question whether a certain portion of the governing body should not consist of members of other religious denominations besides the Church of England. It might be that a majority, and a decided majority, of the trustees should belong to the Church of England, and that there should also be a certain number of Dissenting trustees to watch over the interests of the Dissenting children admitted by law to the benefits of the school. All that the commissioners said, however, was that they did not feel themselves bound to go beyond the letter of the Act in a case of that kind. In Bridgewater there existed ample provision for the elementary education of the poor; but there was a crying need for the means of education for the class just above those for whom that charity was intended. For that particular class it was now proposed that there should be a Church school, teaching the doctrines of the Church of England; and if there was any class which had been more than another withdrawn from the influence of that Church, it was that very lower middle-class for which they were providing in a scheme of that kind.

The petition was ordered to lie on the table, and the House adjourned at half-past six o'clock.

On Monday the House sat less than half an hour, and adjourned after transacting some formal business.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SUNDAY LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

On Wednesday Mr. RYLANDS moved the second reading of the bill for prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sundays, except to *bona fide* travellers and lodgers. He declared that the liquor trade was too great, and people drank too much. The money spent on intoxicating liquor in this country was estimated, without exaggeration, at 90,000,000. a year, or 3s. per head of the entire population; while the working classes spent in drink not less than one-sixth of their entire earnings. The motion was seconded by Mr. BIRLEY.

Mr. J. FIELDEN moved the rejection of the bill as an infringement of individual liberty and a gross libel on the working classes. He, for one, would not consent to slander the mass of sober, hard-working men by branding them as incapable of restraining their passion for drink. He objected to the bill also as class legislation, because no attempt was made to apply its provisions to the clubs of the rich. Mr. MELLOR, in seconding the amendment, showed that Mr. Rylands in his police statistics had forgotten that on Monday there were dealt with police cases of two days—Saturday and Sunday—and that it was the custom to pay wages on the Saturday afternoon.

Mr. MELLY, Sir H. SELWIN-IBBETSON, and Lord SANDON, approved restrictions on Sunday drinking, but thought the bill went too far. Mr. HENLEY opposed, and Mr. BAINES and Mr. JACOB BRIGHT supported the measure. The last-named speaker said that if the bill were made permissive instead of compulsory, it would be accepted by the whole of Lancashire.

Mr. BRUCE admitted that Sunday drinking was an evil. He thought, however, it arose from Sunday being an idle day, and from the fact that on that day the working classes generally had a little money at their command. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to deprive them of all opportunity of obtaining refreshment on that day, and therefore he could not support the second reading of the bill. At the same time he was of opinion that the liquor traffic on Sunday should be restricted, but the present bill endeavoured to accomplish too much. If Mr. Rylands would consent that the bill should be committed *pro forma*, so as to include in it provisions limiting the hours during which the public-houses should be open on Sundays, he would not vote against the second reading. He had no hope, however, that it would be possible to pass a bill this session.

Mr. LOCKE ridiculed the idea of amending a bill by striking out title, preamble, and clauses. The truth was this country would not be worth living in if they were to be legislated for by the class of members—the Solons—the great law-makers who had recently come into that House.

After some further conversation, in which strong protests were made against passing a bill through a second reading which everybody disapproved, and which would have to be entirely recast on a different principle, the motion was carried by 147 to 119.

The Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Society of Ireland Regulation Bill passed through committee, with amendments, and the report of supply was brought up and agreed to.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at a quarter to six o'clock.

METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS.

On Thursday the House was for some time occupied in the discussion of the bill for authorising the construction of a tramway through the Edgware and Marylebone roads, and Oxford-street. The rejection of the measure was moved by Mr. B. HOPKINS, and although its promoters expressed their willingness to accept a compromise suggested by Mr. Fortescue, and to abandon that part of their scheme which referred to Oxford-street, the member for the University of Cambridge persisted in his opposition, and the measure was rejected by a majority of 30—215 to 176.

In the course of the Ministerial catechism, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER not only admitted that Lord Cowley had recently enclosed eighteen acres of rough grass in Epping Forest, but, amid murmurs from below the gangway on both sides of the House, repeated his declaration that he will not involve the public in any litigation on the subject.

Mr. V. HARCOURT and Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE soon afterwards gave notice of their intention to call attention to the recent reports of the Commissioners of Woods, and to move resolutions impeaching the principles upon which they have managed the Crown property committed to their charge. Mr. Cowper-Temple asks for distinct action, and desires that the powers of the Commissioners of Woods shall be re-transferred to the Commissioners of Works.

THE BALLOT BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on this bill, Mr. J. LOWTHER moved an instruction to the committee to dispose of the four vacant seats of Bridgewater, Beverley, Sligo, and Cashel, which gave rise to a spirited skirmish between the two front benches. Mr. GLADSTONE, in opposing it, as inconvenient and inopportune, urged that its acceptance would lead to needless multiplication of subjects, and in illustrating this objection, he used the phrase, "Many of us think the question of the franchise may receive early attention." The revision of boundaries and the redistribution of seats, he added, would have an equal claim. Upon this

Mr. DISRAELI rose and expressed his surprise that the Prime Minister, after the experience of the session and having failed in so many subjects as to array every class in the country against his Government, should be so indiscreet as to announce to the country that the question of the franchise was to be reconsidered and resettled. He presumed that it was meant as a "dram" to revive the flagging energies of the Liberal party, though it probably would not produce that effect. A wise Minister, he went on to remark amid loud cheers, would rather have striven to give the country a season of rest and to tranquillise the public mind, particularly at a period when questions affecting the distribution of power were so rife. On the merits of the particular question before the House, Mr. Disraeli was of opinion that it would be difficult to carry out its object by connecting it with the present bill.

Mr. GLADSTONE emphatically disclaimed the meaning put on his words—at which some of the Opposition cried, "Oh!" and Lord J. MANNERS asked what, then, was the meaning of the Prime Minister? If he did not mean that, his argument came to nothing at all. Mr. FORSTER replied that the Prime Minister was merely describing what other people might say, and Mr. HARDY wound up by remarking that if the meaning were disclaimed there was no pressing the matter further, but that Mr. Disraeli's interpretation was justified by the visible shudder which ran through the Liberal party when the words fell from Mr. Gladstone.

Colonel French, Mr. Macfie, Sir F. Heygate, and Mr. Synan made some remarks on the instruction, and on a division Mr. Lowther's motion was negatived by 254 to 145.

Mr. CROSS then moved the rejection of the bill, in which he was seconded by Mr. RIDLEY. Mr. Peel Dawson, Mr. Cave, and Mr. Plunket spoke in support of the amendment, while Colonel Edwardes, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, Mr. O. Morgan, Mr. Leatham, and Mr. Stansfeld defended the bill. The debate turned almost exclusively on the ballot, and reproduced on each side all the old familiar arguments and figures of speech. On the one side it was contended that voting should be open, the franchise being a trust and public duty, and that secret voting would not put an end to bribery, undue influence, and intimidation, but would merely change the form of them for the worse, enabling the offenders to defy detection and escape punishment. On the other hand, the franchise, while admitted to be a trust, was said to be, as Mr. Stansfeld put it, a trust confided to the elector to be fulfilled freely and independently, and for this he had a right to the protection of secrecy if he needed it.

On the Conservative side Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE alone supported the ballot, avowing himself a convert to it since recent experience had convinced him of the conservative tendencies (not using the word in a party sense) of the working classes. The debate was adjourned until Monday.

The House rose at eight minutes past two o'clock.

THE QUEEN AND THE POPE.

On Thursday Mr. GLADSTONE informed Mr. Whalley that the Queen had, through Mr. Jervoise, at Rome, congratulated the Pope on the anniversary of his accession. There was nothing of a political character in that proceeding; and with regard to a Sovereign who had been dispossessed of his dominion, it was the feeling of the Government, and he hoped of the House, that the duty of personal respect and regard should not be intermitted, but even more sedulously observed. Mr. NEWDEGATE asked whether this communication was made under the power of the Diplomatic Relations Act, 1848. Mr. GLADSTONE was not able to say whether this communication was founded upon the Diplomatic Relations Act, but as George IV. contrived to present a portrait of himself to the Pope, he thought it was possible, notwithstanding that Act, to convey to the Pope the very simple congratulatory communication which he had stated to the House.

A motion by Mr. HAVILAND-BURKE for an address to the Crown in favour of opening-up Constitution-hill, gave rise to some discussion, in the course of which Mr. GLADSTONE urged that this was part of a large question—the relations of the metropolitan public to the parks, and the provision for maintaining them—which must be dealt with as a whole. Lord J. MANNERS also joined with the Government in opposing the motion, which on a division was rejected by 89 to 61 votes. In committee on the Civil Service Estimates there was a good deal of promiscuous conversation about the expenses of the Royal palaces.

At the evening sitting the question of the Euphrates Valley Railway was brought up by Sir G. JENKINSON, who moved for a select committee to inquire into the whole subject of railway communication between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf. Mr. GRANT DUFF, in assenting to the motion, desired it to be understood that the Government were not committed in any way in regard to the scheme. Of course, if it could be carried out, it would be an immense gain to India, and was worthy of investigation. After some discussion as to the comparative advantage of the Euphrates, Tigris, and Egyptian routes, the committee was carried by 86 to 10.

Major ARBUTHNOT next called attention to the defective organisation and efficiency of the Royal Artillery, and moved for an inquiry, by Royal Commission, into the condition of the artillery force. Sir H. STOKES resisted an inquiry, on the ground that the subject was under the consideration of the War Office and the Commander-in-Chief, and maintained that the artillery was in a state of complete efficiency and discipline. The brigade system had not quite answered its purpose, but it was under consideration. To a remark by Sir J. PAKINGTON, that our field artillery was considerably below the proper strength, Mr. CARDWELL replied that the artillery was at least twice as strong as in Sir John's time.

In the course of the debate Mr. WHALLEY vainly endeavoured to introduce the question of the Pope's jubilee, which he declared was somehow a menace to the peace of Europe, and after being repeatedly called to order by the Speaker, was "counted out" at half-past twelve o'clock.

THE ARMY BILL.

On Monday notice was given of the terms of Mr. Graves's resolution, to be moved on the third reading of the Army Bill. It was to the effect that since the bill has been narrowed to a single object the House is unwilling to commit itself prematurely to a large expenditure known and unknown, and awaits from the Government a mature and comprehensive scheme which will place our military system on a sound and economical basis. (Opposition cheers.)

Some discussion followed relative to the Army Bill, the result of which was that Mr. CARDWELL accepted a suggestion from Mr. Disraeli that the "report" should be taken on Friday, and the third reading on Monday. How far the opponents of the bill are pledged to finish the debate on the "report" on Friday was left in some doubt; but Mr. GLADSTONE threw out a hint that, if the debate were not then finished, it might be necessary to sit on Saturday.

THE BALLOT BILL.

The adjourned debate was resumed by Mr. H. JAMES in an able speech. He admitted that the abstract arguments in favour of the change were not sufficient to recommend it, and set himself, therefore, to prove that it was the best, indeed, the only practical remedy for bribery, treating, and undue influence. It was on the last that he laid most stress, because he believed bribery and treating to be on the decrease, and there never had been an election at which these offences had been so rare as at the last. The ballot would not only put an end to undue influence, but it would assist and increase the legitimate influence of education and persuasion by the protection it gave the voter. Mr. James next controverted the public trust argument, contending that the only duty imposed on the elector was to give his vote according to his own conscience, and if he could not perform this by open voting he had

a right to the shelter of the ballot. Commenting on Mr. Plunket's speech, he declared, with reference to his threat of eighty or ninety Nationalist members, that, if they represented the real feeling of the country, they ought to be welcomed. In the close of his speech Mr. James entered into a technical discussion of the working of the ballot, and showed with much ability how all the advantages of a scrutiny might be retained under the new system.

Mr. HARDY, admitting that measures for securing peace and tranquillity at elections were needed, maintained that bribery and undue influence were decreasing, and denounced the ballot vigorously as cowardly and tending to selfishness, hypocrisy, and lying. The whole argument on which it rested was that men are guided by their interests, and not by their opinions, and that it would deteriorate the constituencies by destroying the influence of public opinion. It would not secure complete secrecy, for it made no attempt to check personation, and certain kinds of intimidation were entirely untouched by it.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON retorted Mr. Hardy's taunt by suggesting that conversions on the ballot had not been more rapid than certain conversions about household suffrage, and as to the imputations of cowardice and hypocrisy, he anticipated that men would cease to trouble themselves about how their neighbours voted as soon as ever it became impossible to ascertain it with certainty, and all motives for concealment would in time disappear. He admitted that on certain points there would be a loss by the abandonment of open voting—for instance, the advantage of being put on the scent of bribery by knowing how a man had voted would be lost; but the balance in favour of the ballot was very considerable. Bribery and personation would be just as capable of proof, and the coarser forms of intimidation would be positively put an end to. In regard to Ireland, the Marquis declared that there was no country which needed the ballot more, and this he enforced by describing the violent scenes at the Sligo and Drogheda elections, and said the eighty or ninety Nationalist members with whom the House was threatened, would be preferable to the present state of things. If the real preponderance of opinion lay that way, by all means let them come, that they might learn how unalterable is the determination here to maintain the integrity of the empire.

Mr. BERSFORD-HOPKINS denounced the bill as a piece of immoral legislation, since it was founded on no necessity, and had no more worthy motive than to provide the party of progress with a cry.

Mr. M'CLURE, though theoretically in favour of open voting if all men were independent, supported the Ballot to put a stop to landlord coercion. Mr. LIDDELL examined the evidence from Australia, contending that it proved the extinction of all party spirit, instability of public opinion, and political immorality of representatives, were the inevitable products of the ballot. Mr. PLATT supported the ballot because it would eliminate and render powerless the rowdy and turbulent element of the working classes.

Mr. R. TORRENS narrated how he, the leader of the Conservative party in South Australia, had been converted to the ballot by experience of its efficacy in curing the evils of our electoral system—bribery, intimidation, and violence. He insisted, however, that the ballot was useless unless it were perfectly secret, and held, therefore, that the scrutiny was unnecessary.

Dr. BALL maintained, on the other hand, that the experience of the ballot in the Australian colonies, which were limited in their extent and were not distracted by any questions of vital interest, furnished no reason why Parliament should suddenly change its mind. Tracing back the history of secret voting, he showed how in Rome it had led directly to organised bribery, and, coming back to our own time, he declaimed against the demoralising political effects of secrecy. The ballot, he argued, was utterly unfit for this nation, and unsuited to the circumstances of the time.

Mr. MAGUIRE supported the ballot as a protection to the humbler class of voters, the necessity for which was simply demonstrated by the last election. Referring to Mr. Plunket's speech, he declared that, ballot or no ballot, fifty members at least would be sent from Ireland pledged to home rule at the next election. Mr. Maguire avowed himself a member of the large and increasing party which, while loyal to the Throne, and earnestly anxious for the union and prosperity of the empire, desired to have Irish business done at home on the federal principle; and Mr. Maguire pledged himself to take the opinion of the House on this policy early next session, and he held out a strong hope that, when the ballot had passed, the Roman Catholic clergy would withdraw from politics.

The debate was adjourned until Thursday on the motion of Mr. G. BENTINCK.

TRAMWAYS.

The House then went into committee on the Tramways Provisional Orders Confirmation Bill. On the motion that the schedules be agreed to, Mr. B. HOPKINS moved an amendment in the committee to leave out of the schedule the proposed new tramways of the metropolis. Mr. R. N. FOWLER moved that the Chairman report progress. Mr. T. CHAMBERS opposed the amendment, which he regarded as a breach of faith with the promoters of the tramways specified in the schedule. After a further discussion, the motion for reporting progress was negatived. The House divided upon the omission of the first metropolitan tramway mentioned in the

schedule. For amendment 116, against 105—majority 11. Progress was then reported.

SALE OF LIQUOR ON SUNDAY BILL.

On the order to go into committee on this bill, Sir H. HOARE moved that the order be discharged. Sir H. SELWIN-IBBETSON moved that the House resolve itself into committee on that day three months. Mr. MONK moved the adjournment of the debate. After some conversation the motion for the adjournment of the debate was withdrawn, and the House divided on Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson's motion, with the following result:—

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| For going into committee | 51 |
| Against it | 69 |
| Majority | —18 |

The bill was therefore thrown out.
The House adjourned at half-past two o'clock.

Foreign and Colonial.

FRANCE.

On examination by staff officers the Longchamps Racecourse was found so saturated by the recent heavy rains that the review was unavoidably again postponed from Sunday. It is fixed for to-morrow. The weather is now very fine.

A Paris telegram of yesterday says:—"It appears certain that the amount of the loan to be taken up in France will be subscribed several times over. The Association of Brokers has alone subscribed for more than half the amount, and an unprecedented success is expected."

The Government continues to receive satisfactory reports of the prospects of the elections next Sunday. It is hoped that out of 114 new deputies eighty will support the Government. The Imperialists are working actively. Pamphlets are being circulated in the provinces addressed to the ignorant classes, praising the Imperial generosity to Catholic churches. Bonapartist organs continue to assail the Thiers Government.

M. Gambetta presents himself as a candidate for Paris. He has just arrived from Bordeaux, where he delivered a speech, in which he adopted the views expressed in M. Louis Blanc's recent letter to the *Nation Souveraine*.

It is probable that the principal Electoral Committees in Paris will coalesce. Some of the newspapers are beginning to get nervous lest a very large number of electors should abstain from voting on Sunday next. It is expected that many hundred thousand will abstain. The Communists keep very quiet. Their organisation is believed to be good, and they may come to the poll in considerable strength.

The Duke of Persigny declines to be a candidate for a seat in the Assembly for the reason that nothing can issue from it but another experiment in the way of naturalising English Parliamentary institutions in France. Not only does the Duke of Persigny consider this impossible, but he believes the attempt to be full of danger. Democratic Imperialism he thinks the only régime for such a country as France. If the new attempt fails, and falls in the hands of one who understands and believes in Parliamentaryism like M. Thiers, it will be "because this system—this mode of Government—is decidedly opposed to the genius of our race, and then the country will again, I doubt not, call for another mode of Government, which, as long as it was in its purity and faithful to its principles, gave to France years of greatness and of prosperity."

The Duke of Anumale arrived in Paris on Saturday, accompanied by M. Estancelin. The *Observer* publishes what it asserts to be the Monarchist programme:—"In the event of the supplementary elections to be held next Sunday evening, as is expected, a strong popular preference for a monarchical form of government, the majority in the Assembly will forthwith propose that the Chambers should form a constitution for the country. If this proposal be accepted the Constitution will be framed on a monarchical basis, with efficient guarantees for the maintenance of Liberal parliamentary institutions. According to the terms of the Fusion compact, when the Constitution has been agreed upon, and not before, the throne will be offered in the first instance to the Comte de Chambord. If, however, the grandson of Charles X. should deem it inconsistent with his dignity to accept the Crown subject to the limitations imposed by the Constitution, the majority will then unite in placing the Comte de Paris on the throne. Up to the present time there seems every reason to believe that this compromise will be loyally carried out by all the adherents of the 'Maison de France.'"

Garibaldi has refused to stand as a candidate for the department of the Maritime Alps. In his letter to the President of the Republican Union of Nice, announcing this determination, he merely says, "Thanks. I cannot accept."

Baron Haussmann, the late Prefect of the Seine, who is a candidate for the French Assembly, has published a letter in which he says that whatever form of Government or dynasty the country may adopt, he will submit without reserve to its sovereign will.

Mr. George Moore, who has just returned from Paris, in a letter to the *Record*, says that he has had a long interview with Marshal MacMahon, and the marshal "is very confident all disturbance is at an end, at least for a time."

It is stated that forty-seven men-of-war have been disarmed in the naval ports of France, and that 12,000 seamen have been dismissed.

The Empress Eugenie, says the *Temps*, sent a letter of congratulation to the Pope, on the occasion of his jubilee, through Cardinal Lucien Bonaparte, together with an offering of 100,000 francs, in the name of the Imperial family.

The *Daily News* special correspondent says that great distress prevails in many districts of the city, and that a large number of persons are applying at the Mairies for relief. It is calculated that no fewer than 80,000 men have ceased to be able to support their families, and that there are thus 240,000 persons dependent on public charity. Work, meanwhile, is somewhat slack, as great uneasiness prevails with regard to overdue rent and bills.

Though there have been reports of Felix Pyat having been seen in London, it is believed he is certainly in concealment in Paris.

At La Villette arrows have been fired at officers passing. The neighbouring houses have been carefully searched, but without result.

It is reported that the trial of Rochefort, Rossel, and Assi is again postponed, on account of the discovery of fresh papers concerning the relations of the Commune with the International.

The Minister of Finance has published the proposed new tariff. Raw silk, wool, cotton, and all other raw material will be charged 20 per cent. *ad valorem*. An equivalent drawback will be granted on the exportation of fabrics. Coffee will pay a duty of 150 francs; petroleum (crude) of 40; petroleum (refined) of 55 francs, per 100 kilogrammes. Sugar will pay 30 per cent. in addition to the existing rates. The postage of inland letters is raised from 20 to 25 centimes.

ITALY.

The last sitting of the Italian Parliament in Florence was held on Saturday, when the session came to an end. On Saturday next, as already announced, the formal transfer of the seat of Government to Rome will take place.

A telegram from Florence says that the French Government has given the most reassuring explanations relating to the enrolments in the regiments being made by Colonel Charette. A Lombard telegram states that the Austrian Government has decided to persevere in its policy of non-interference between Italy and Rome.

The Pope will, it is rumoured, take refuge in France on July 1—the day of the transfer of the capital to Rome.

In reply to an address from the French Catholics on the occasion of the Papal Jubilee, Pius IX. spoke of the love he bore to France, and of the pleasure it gave him to recognise that she had always been faithful to himself and the Holy See. He must, however, speak the truth to her. There was in France a more formidable evil than the revolution or the Commune, with its demon-like adherents, who had set fire to Paris, and that was Liberal Catholicism.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The demonstrations which have been made in Austria, on the occasion of the Papal Jubilee, have greatly disappointed the expectations of the clerical party.

The *Morning Post* has heard of a new holy alliance. Its statement is:—"It is said at Berlin that an understanding to preserve the peace of Europe has been come to between Germany, Russia, and Austria."

The first performance of the Passion play at Oberammergau, on Saturday, was highly successful. Two thousand spectators were present, the majority being English and American.

The Associated German Railways have resolved to present to Prince Bismark, as a token of gratitude, a private railway carriage for his special use, luxuriously fitted with all comforts. The carriage is adapted for use on all German railway lines.

P. A. Secchi, in a letter to Professor Silliman, dated Rome, April 19, announces the discovery of a new spectroscopic combination, by the aid of which we can see the images of the spots and of the solar protuberances, with the spectral lines, all at once in the same field.

A few days ago, at the request of the Crown Princess of Prussia, some representatives of the English press now in Berlin attended at the palace to receive from her lips expressions of her appreciation of the services rendered by special correspondents during the late campaign.

ICEBOUND AT MIDSUMMER.—Between 300 and 400 sailing vessels of all nations, principally Norwegians, are lying in the Gulf of Bothnia, part of them among the drift ice, and part of them under short sail off the ice. Many of them that have been lying in the ice for several weeks, it is feared, are short of provisions. The wind at the early part of this month was north and north-east, and drove the drift ice more to the southward, but unless rain and a strong south wind should set in it was (on the 8th inst.) presumed the navigation would be impeded till midsummer.

THE SHOEBLACK AND THE "TEMPORAL POWER."

—In the *Daily News* letter from Rome we read:—"As I was passing through the Piazza Colonna six or seven foreign priests, together with some two or three ladies, were looking at the column. Two shoeblick boys accosted them, and, touching their caps, offered their services to the religious tourists. One of them drew from his pocket a son, and, handing it to the boy, said in a loud tone of voice, 'Here my young fellow, take this and say an Ave

Maria for the re-establishment of the temporal power.' The boy looked around and refused the money, saying, 'No, no, that would be lost time.'

HELIGOLAND.—The *Cologne Gazette* protests against the desire for the possession of Heligoland expressed by a few German papers. The Berlin *Volks Zeitung* says, in reference to the same subject:—"Hardly do we know how the regained part of Germany is to be organised, and already do overzealous hands cast out nets for Heligoland, in order to add to the number of our enemies England, who has never disturbed our peace, and who for ages has been our teacher in culture and industry, and in the legal establishment of the political rights of the people. Not war, but peace, is now the watchword, not the sword, but work is our vocation, and not the levying of contributions, but industry, is to make our fortune."

DR. REVEL, PRINCIPAL OF THE PROTESTANT EVANGELICAL COLLEGE, died some days ago at Florence. A letter from Florence says:—"The funeral was attended, besides the professors, by the students of the theological school, the pastors of the various Protestant Churches in Florence, and members of all the different Evangelical denominations, both Italian and foreign. A number also of former students of the college, now engaged in the pastoral office, hastened from Leghorn, Pisa, Milan, Venice, Genoa, and Rome, on hearing of his decease, to pay him a last tribute of respect and affection to the memory of one who had for years been their honoured guide and teacher. There had never before been witnessed in the Protestant cemetery so large a congregation of sincere mourners."

A TERRIBLE SCOURGE.—This dreaded insect, known to the entomologists as *Doryphora decemlineata*, is moving steadily eastward, and unless some means of checking either his advance or his ravages is discovered, farmers in the Eastern States must make the most of their potato crops now, for within ten years or so the pest will reach the coast. This bug was first noticed on wild potatoes in Colorado, and made its appearance in Wisconsin in 1862. Five years later it reached Indiana, and its advanced skirmishers now extend from the north-western borders of Ohio to districts south of Indianapolis. This insect is only about half an inch long. Its colour is a Venetian red, inclining to a creamy hue, and it has a black head, and is finished off with a double row of black spots or dots along the sides. But its numbers and the pertinacity with which it travels onward, are the sources of danger, no less than its marvellous fecundity and its frightful destructive powers. Some farmers assert that sprinkling common sawdust on the potato vines is an effectual remedy, but experiments do not justify this theory. Paris green is more effective, but it is dangerous to use. Altogether the potato-bug is one of the most destructive of all the insect world, and he certainly offers a useful field for entomologists to study.—*Christian Union* (New York).

PRESIDENT GRANT ON THE INDIANS AND THEIR QUAKER FRIENDS.—The President has again been talking to an "interviewing reporter." He talked of the Indians, who, as usual at this time of year, are discussed on all sides. He said those who clamoured for their destruction were either interested or knew nothing of the condition of affairs in the wild regions where they lived. He had lived with the Indians, and knew them thoroughly. They can be civilised and made friends of the Republic; but tact and skill were required to deal with them. The Indian question he did not consider one the Government at Washington should be called upon to settle. The citizens of the outlying States and territories ought to be able to do it. The Quakers have done well and will do more, and other religious denominations are also labouring with effect among the Indians. They were all labouring for the same end, and he would give them all the support he could. He did not like riding over and shooting these poor savages; he wanted to conciliate them and make them peaceful citizens. A peace policy was much preferable to a war policy, he said, and you can't thrash people so that they will love you, even though they are Indians; but you can make enemies friends by kindness.

THE BARONESS BURDETT COUTTS.—When the great banker Glyn was raised to the peerage a few years ago under the title of Baron Wolverton, he gave 50*l.* to every clerk in his bank (Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co.). Not to be outdone in such liberal conduct, Lady Burdett Coutts is about to give 75*l.* to each of the clerks in Coutts's Bank, on her having become a baroness.

WORKMEN'S PEACE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this association was held on Wednesday at their rooms, Buckingham-street, when the chair was taken by Mr. Galbraith. The secretary, Mr. Cremer, read the report, which showed that during the past year, branch associations have been formed in most of the large towns, and that the society's circular for the establishment of a High Court of Nations for International Arbitration has been translated into each continental language, and freely distributed in many continental and provincial towns. A resolution was adopted reminding "the working classes that some of those who are now foremost in denouncing the cruelties of the French army only a few months ago made strenuous efforts to induce England to fight side by side with her in the late war." A plan for a High Court of Nations was then resolved upon, to be submitted to a general conference of members of Parliament and friends of peace to be invited to discuss the question on the 8th of July next.

Literature.

THE MARTYRS AND APOLOGISTS.*

M. de Pressensé is a master in a style of historical art which requires the union of very rare qualities—fullest sympathy with every noble form of thought and belief, and yet keenly discriminative tact to receive and to set aside according to a high and severe standard of judgment. The flattering unctious which the pantheistic philosophies of the East have laid to the soul of man, and, to appearance, all the more powerfully as they have travelled eastward; the stoicism which casts such an icy cold around human nature even while claiming to elevate and dignify it—these he has done ample justice to, and yet has faithfully shown their fatal inadequacy to meet the religious needs of the heart. And this he has accomplished so completely because he is so determined never to view dogma alone, but only in relation to individuals and to character. He delights, as he himself has expressed it, in using dogmas and beliefs as background on which "to bring individuality into full relief." He seizes dogma on its sympathetic and picturesque side; and so suffuses his pages with colour. He excels in separate pictures; some person—more or less typical and representative—is always coming into prominence; and although this typical personage is never isolated from his fellows, his fellows are so grouped around him that they help to bring his individuality into full relief, while, at the same time, no violence is done to their own. This, we take it, is M. de Pressensé's speciality; this it is which gives to his words a grace and a weight which combine to make them influential against even such writers as Strauss and Renan.

But M. de Pressensé would only be a brilliant writer were this all that could be truly said of him. He is essentially a thinker, although his artistic powers are such as tend, to some extent, to hide it from the casual reader. However careful and elaborate he may be—however brilliant and finished, his portraits are always conceived by him in strict relation to a whole. Each new book, indeed, is but a part of a great scheme, and gives us fresh lights by which to read anew what has gone before it. His publications have thus a kind of cumulative value. They must not be held to speak only for themselves, but for those also which have preceded them. He himself says of the "Life of Jesus," "that it forms a natural part of a series of 'works on Primitive Christianity.' It was 'always my intention to write it. If I have 'entered on the undertaking sooner than I 'proposed, it has been in obedience to the imperative call of our day."

The period of the martyrs and apologists—that is from the beginning of the second till about the middle of the third century—is one excellently well suited to Pressensé's genius. It is full of striking incidents. It is rich in contrasted character. Justin and Irenæus, Origen and Tertullian;—men of kindred spirit, yet of very opposite temperaments, move on the stage, confronted by Pagan Emperors of as conflicting characters as Marcus Aurelius and his vicious son Commodus. And, then, at that time Christianity was most decisively seen in conflict with the vast Paganisms which the Roman Empire had at once conserved and attenuated; sapping their foundations, as it did, and assimilating to itself whatever little of human and beautiful and permanent lay in them. This, truly, is a period to give full scope for fine historic sympathies; for nice discrimination of men and motives; for free play of dramatic instinct, and quick constructive talent. To say that M. de Pressensé has shown these in his own characteristic manner, is no more than the truth.

When speaking of the positivist development of later philosophy in the introduction to the first of this great series, "Jesus Christ, His Times, Life, and Work," M. de Pressensé thus significantly wrote:—"This feeble and 'thinking humanity soars perpetually beyond 'this immense universe, seeking its God; your 'attempted substitution does not avail, and the 'fact remains unexplained, or rather set aside 'and denied by you. Strange positivism, that 'which gives no place in science to the human 'yearning which has worked most mightily on 'history, and has troubled and agitated the 'race to its depths—not like a passing wind 'which swells the wave—but like that mysterious 'law which day by day heaves the whole heart 'of ocean. Positivism rejects supernatural and

"the world; and behold, this supernatural 'order invades the world itself, at least, by the 'passionate longings which it excites, and thus 'asserts its right to be placed in the category of 'appreciable facts to be verified and explained. 'The school of fact is thus unfaithful to itself, 'and it is not needful, in order to establish its 'insufficiency, to invoke the rights of soul and 'conscience which it ignores; it is enough to 'prove to positivism that it sets aside the positive facts which fetter it, and thus is untrue 'to its own method."

This supplies something like the dominating key-note of Pressensé's writings. In one respect he applies the positive or historical method as against the positivists. He defeats them with their own weapons. And here we see the significance of that extended essay on "Preliminary Questions," which occupied nearly the one-half of the "Life of Jesus Christ," and which seemed sadly out of proportion, when that work was viewed as a complete effort in itself. The essay was openly criticised in this country as being out of all proportion. But it was needful that Pressensé should vindicate his own positive method by glancing at the unfulfilled yearnings of humanity, to find how "Divine order, on the pretext that it is without totally all materialistic and pantheistic schemes had failed to satisfy it. The religions of the earth, in their much of false and their little of true, bear striking testimony to the instinct lodged ineradicably in the human soul, which cries out for Divine personality. The moral consciousness is found everywhere protesting against an order of things from which Divine will and personality have been excluded. Pantheism is a *tour de force* of the intellect; the heart is non-consenting. And so Pressensé finds that, while Christianity yields to the intellect whatever it may in this light demand, admitting a certain divinity to reside in nature, for Christ manifests Himself in it; in the demand it makes upon the heart and the will, it sets itself in direct opposition to all the religious systems that have gone before it. The philosophers and the religious teachers taught beautiful morality; but it was a thing of the intellect. Did not one of them demonstrate the beauty of poverty and self-sacrifice, whilst his cellar was filled with gold, and he served by slaves? Christianity makes heart and intellect one in a satisfaction that is at once permanent and peace-yielding.

And as the study of the early religions brought facts attesting the truth of this lofty Christian positivism, in a still more powerful manner does the study of the second and third centuries of our era bring facts in support of it. Whence came that new power which raised men, previously sunk in many cases in selfishness and debauchery, to such higher level of self-sacrifice, that this world was accounted as nought in comparison with another? M. de Pressensé supplies the answer. Through faith in a risen Lord, "the supernatural invades the 'world itself; and thus asserts its right to be 'placed in the category of appreciable facts to 'be verified and explained." His book is a verification and explanation—nothing less, and nothing more. It is true that he has caught the spirit of the martyr time, and celebrates it with chaste yet eloquent enthusiasm; but he is first faithful to the facts. Persecution, cruelty, death had no power to root out this new belief.

"Captivity, so far from crushing the courage of the Christians, had usually the effect of stimulating it. The honour of suffering for the noblest of causes, the lively realisation of that Divine support promised to all who are persecuted for the truth, the universal sympathy of the Church, the contrast between the horrors of the dungeon and the enthusiastic joy filling the heart of the captives, all contributed to raise the martyr Christians above themselves. They lived almost in a state of ecstasy. They had glorious visions, which made them forget their bonds and captivity; and, like the dying Stephen, they saw the dark clouds above their heads parting to reveal an open heaven, and palms and crowns of life waiting for the conquerors. . . . The martyr had ever before his eyes the bloody battle which he was soon to fight, and all the perils and temptations which he would have to encounter. . . . Tortures are more easy to be borne than the agonised entreaties of beloved voices; but this last ordeal was often a part of the captive Christian's lot. Origen declares that martyrdom has not reached its acme of anguish, except when the tender prayers of parents have been added to the violence of the gaolers, to shake the constancy of the prisoner. . . . Perpetua was kept apart from her husband because he shared her faith; but her father was permitted to renew, as often as he chose, his piteous entreaties with her, to draw her back."

But M. de Pressensé proceeds all along in the historical spirit. He calmly recites his authorities. He embodies proofs of his assertions in record of individual character and action. His narratives thus reveal the epic side of Christian doctrine. When he is eloquent it is by sincere appropriation of the spirit which dwelt in his heroes, and by aid of which alone a path can be found through the entangling obscurities of history.

* *The Martyrs and Apologists.* By E. DE PRESSENSÉ, D.D. Author of "Jesus Christ: His Life, Times, and Work." Translated by ANNIE HARWOOD, (Hodder and Stoughton.)

In nothing does his discrimination more appear than in the account he gives of the systems of thought and belief which Christianity, though it came with no outward show of influence, finally undermined. This is a subject calculated to severely tax the strength of any one save a master. There is so much in these systems, Pagan though they are, to captivate the heart of the student. The writings of Seneca, of Epictetus, and the Emperor-student, Marcus Aurelius, alike show such a serene superiority to the trifles of life that we are apt to forget the mighty issues wholly left out of account by them, of the lofty pride and contempt of human weakness which their thoughts so tended to engender. Scarcely ever have we read anything more wisely discriminating than the following passage on Stoicism and Christianity:—

"Stoicism and Christianity were necessarily and inevitably antagonistic. Two doctrines, apparently somewhat akin, but in reality profoundly dissimilar, came into more violent collision than those which are in all points opposed. The Stoical school, the refuge of souls who mistook pride for greatness, pretended to be the restorer of the ancient world. It encountered in its path a despised sect, which, while enwrapping itself as it seemed in the mantle of Stoicism, and uttering maxims no less austere, succeeded where Stoicism had failed, and robbed it of its influence. Christianity, from its very first contact with Stoicism, overthrew the scaffolding so laboriously reared, and opposed the heroism of holiness to its cold and boastful virtue. Stoicism was after all but Roman Pharisaism. It was, we freely admit, Pharisaism free from hypocrisy, austere as that of Saul of Tarsus; but its vital breath at Rome, as at Jerusalem, was an incurable pride, and it was the natural enemy of religion which had its basis in humility. Pharisaism, whether seated in the chair of the doctor, or on the throne of the emperor, acts infallibly the part of the persecutor."

An affected appreciation of the Stoical school has in some degree sprung out of an affected reverence for its most distinguished apostle—Marcus Aurelius. Much as he deserves our esteem as a man, and much as he claims our gratitude as a moralist, it is surely too much to attempt such a justification of his persecution of the Christians as Mr. Matthew Arnold and Mr. F. W. Farrar have recently given us. Mr. Arnold is content with attributing the whole thing to the misrepresentations of Christianity by which alone the Emperor had a chance of judging it. And yet surely he may well write thus:—"One asks oneself with astonishment how a doctrine so benign as that of Christ can have incurred misrepresentation so monstrous." Surely. But could Marcus Aurelius by any possibility have ceased to hear of the noble manner in which the Christians bore torture of every kind and even death itself, unflinchingly, rather than deny their doctrines; and should not such lofty Stoicism have moved him to inquiry if not to sympathy? Mr. Arnold somewhat inconclusively goes on to write:—"The inner and moving cause of the misrepresentation, no doubt, lay in this,—that Christianity was a new spirit in the Roman World, destined to act in that world as its dissolvent; and it was inevitable that Christianity in the Roman World, like democracy in the modern world, like every new spirit with a similar mission assigned to it, should at its first appearance occasion an instinctive shrinking and repugnance in the world which it was to dissolve." This is odd reasoning, considering that just a moment before Mr. Arnold had said that it was easy for us now to see the greatness of Christianity, but that in the time of Marcus Aurelius it had not yet in any way become apparent, and so justified his persecution; whereas now the persecution is justified on the ground that its greatness, as likely to undermine the Roman power, was already clearly foreseen. We think Pressensé estimates the relation of Marcus Aurelius to Christianity much more truly, while yet he aims at doing the thinker and the man the fullest justice. This is from one of the finest and most discriminating passages in the work:—

"We have no wish to detract at all from the moral greatness of Marcus Aurelius, because he persecuted the Church. We recognise the loftiness of his intellect, his conscientious efforts to realise the ideal proposed to himself, and the nobleness of the sentiments he expressed in a style somewhat stiff and pretentious, as was his whole individuality. His ideal, however, had no true analogy with the Christian ideal; it was indeed, in almost every point, diametrically opposed to it. As the basis of his doctrine, Marcus Aurelius had accepted all the commonplaces of the Stoical school without modification. He shared the scorn of that school for metaphysics, and for all questions which had no practical bearing. He congratulated himself on having early learnt to condemn the higher philosophy. Even from this point of view, the Christian doctrine, which, to the mind of the most simple believer, is full of metaphysical mystery, could not but excite his antipathy. He found too many reasons for drifting with the popular current of hatred to the Christians for him to desire to spread the shield of his protection over a universally accused sect. . . . We may finally remark that perhaps no Emperor was ever more fully possessed by the idea of the Pagan State, or more proudly trampled on the rights of individual conscience. He was fortified in this view by his Stoical pantheism. 'The end of reasonable beings,' he said, 'is to conform to whatever

is imposed by the reason and law of the most ancient and honourable city and Government."

Perhaps we have in this clause the reason of Mr. Arnold's admiration; it looks so like a rendering of some of his own maxims, with which he urbanely preaches down Dissenters!

The work before us is rich in such characterisations of the great men of the time. Origen under the religious nurture of Leonides, or attending the Alexandrian schools, hungry for new thought, or fighting against the Gnostics and teaching classics that he may communicate the truth, or writing books, to which he was very averse, in order to weaken heresy, is powerfully presented to us; and not less so is Tertullian, passing a youth of sensuality and indulgence in Carthage, and then suddenly awakening to the truth and devoting all his fiery zeal and impetuosity to its propagation. These two portraits, however, are so interwoven with the details of a great period that we cannot very well separate them from their context. We must be content instead to give our readers two little sketches. The first is of Justin Martyr:—

"Justin derived all his eloquence from his heart; his natural genius was not of rare order, but the experiences of his early life, illumined by revelation, became the source of much faithful suggestion for himself, and gave to the Church a heritage of thought which ripened and developed at Alexandria, was to become the basis of the great apology of Christianity. If we except the beautiful doctrine of the Word *germinally present in every man*, there was little originality in Justin's theological ideas. In exegesis he is subtle and sometimes puerile; in argument he flags, but where his heart speaks he stands forth in all his moral greatness, and his earnest generous words are ever quick and telling. Had he remained a Pagan he would have lived unnoted in erudite mediocrity. Christianity fired and fertilised his genius, and it is the glowing soul which we chiefly love to trace in all his writings."

And then this of Irenæus:—

"Irenæus writes in Greek and often thinks like a Roman. Essentially moderate in his mode of thought, he tones down, so as to conciliate them, tendencies which seemed directly opposed. An earnest apostle of ecclesiastical unity, he laboured effectually to realise his idea, by drawing together lines which had hitherto seemed divergent, and fusing, as it were, into one comprehensive system of doctrine, all the main elements of the Christian thought of his day. Hence the large influence which he exercised during his life, and which only went on increasing after his death. Irenæus was equally removed from the speculative boldness of many of the fathers of the following age, and from the narrow and passionate realism of Tertullian. He was peculiarly distinguished by the harmony and equilibrium of his spirit."

We notice that M. de Pressensé intimates that "the volume which is to follow will have for its subject Heresy and the Faith; and that the work will conclude with the exposition of the religious and ecclesiastical life of that age 'of fervour and freedom.'" We shall look forward anxiously to seeing this volume, which will fitly conclude a truly great enterprise, which few would have been bold enough to project, and fewer still strong and patient enough to realise—a complete history of Christianity, of its martyrs and apologists, no less than of its earlier heresies and divisions. And we should not forget to say that the present volume is translated into such graceful yet strong and expressive English, as makes it simply a delight to read the book.

HEROINES OF THE HOME.*

Miss Tytler has now made her mark in several departments of literature, but in none has she achieved a more decided success than that in which she first adventured. She has a gift of writing for young people, though, be it noted, we do not mean children, for she does not possess so completely the power of wholly withdrawing her own reflections from the theme in hand as to make her quite successful with them. She demands some exercise of the reflective faculties, and she then does what all fiction should do—she supplies them with true *leadings* through the affections. For this end she writes a little essaylet on a certain subject—some of those in this present volume, for instance, are trustworthiness, single-heartedness, industry, enterprise, order, endurance, charity and wisdom and courtesy—and then she illustrates it by an exquisite story, condensed, elaborate, and yet rounded to a very surprising completeness. In her own way she thus, perhaps unconsciously, carries out the words of the Laureate—

"Though truths in closest words shall fail,
Yet Truth embodied in a tale
Shall enter in at lowly doors."

It is clear that Miss Tytler is fully alive to the prevailing defects of current fiction in the direction of consciously supplying false *leadings*. She refers to the subject again and again; and we fancy we can detect, through the veil of general statement, a rather direct charge against one of our great novelists, who is usually

* *Heroines in Obscurity. A Second Series of Papers for Thoughtful Girls.* By SARAH TYTLER. (Strahan and Co.)

regarded rather as an over-careful painter of social details, than as a sensationalist or "fast" writer in any view of it. However, there may be some truth in what she says, though were this the place to discuss the question, we would like to point out in justification of Anthony Trollope (clearly in Miss Tytler's eye the peccant story-writer—the story-writer who hardly believes in heroines) that he is professedly a realist, who will have nothing but the truth of facts; and who would reply to her very conclusively, as it would seem to us, that the defects in the training and habit of the young women of the present which she is compelled to acknowledge and to mourn, are just what he, as a faithful and unidealising painter of manners, is reluctantly compelled to paint. Pity 'tis, 'tis so, he would doubtless heartily join with her in declaring; but, on the ground of certain broad facts, we are certain that both writers, from their individual knowledge, would very quickly be compelled to agree. Why, does not Miss Tytler, in her little Essay on Industry and Enterprise, need in some sort to apologise for endeavouring to enlist young girls in their favour—to apologise for them, as it were, just as though they were at present very nearly tabooed and proscribed? Miss Tytler's own tone here and there is such as to make us feel that Mr. Trollope's trifling and "love"-occupied heroines are only too near to reality.

But what we meant to do was rather to recommend Miss Tytler's book than to argue with her on incidental points. If Mr. Trollope's view of life, for which she seems a little impatient with him, has any foundation in fact, then the more need, the deeper need, surely, for such a wholesome antidote as she supplies. She has nothing of the goody-goody writer. Strong sense, which never parts company with the finest feminine delicacy; remarkable outspokenness on some proscribed and tabooed topics, yet no wild ravings after impossible reforms against nature; deliberate insight into human nature and its defects, and yet serene hope in its possibilities of better things—these are what we find in Miss Tytler, and we thank her for them.

As for the stories: they give us big novels daintily condensed into a score or so of pages. Pleasant to read, being pure and crystalline in their simple naturalness, they are yet full of suggestion, full of interest; and bring us here and there very close on the borders of real tragedy, though the interests are mainly narrow and domestic. We have over and over again heard parents speak something in this style:—"We are at no loss for books for our boys: there are Mr. Smiles's volumes and 'some others—we need be at no loss; but where to look for a good girls' book—a good companion to a young lady just leaving school"—we know not, and would be glad for any "one to help us." This complaint need no longer be heard. Miss Tytler's two books are exactly of the kind desiderated, and may with all confidence be recommended at once for their lofty moral tone, their real artistic qualities, which combine to make them equally interesting as instructive. We can conscientiously recommend the volume to all who may be in search of a good young lady's book.

BRIEF NOTICES.

Ante-Nicene Christian Library. The Writings of Tertullian. Vols. II. and III. The Apocryphal Gospels, Acts and Revelation. The Clementine Homilies. The Apostolical Constitutions. Arnobius. (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.) Messrs. Clark, notwithstanding their many good deeds in past time in the promotion of theological literature, have seldom rendered a greater service to the cause of New Testament Christianity than by the production of this series of patristic translations. The whole process of the corruption, the gradual corruption, of the apostolic Gospel is here set forth before the eyes of a nation supposed to be returning to Nicene doctrines and customs; and it may well be said that if they cast off the Protestantism of the reformers they will at least do so with their eyes open. Here we have the Apocryphal gospels to begin with—the perfection of the literature which results from the combined authorship of the "old man" and the "old woman"—both of them dwelling in a second childhood. Few things are more marvellous in history than the total failure of the Apostolic inspiration, with all its grandeur, force, and beauty, to perpetuate itself in the mind of the second and third centuries. You pass from the Apostolic age into an intellectual desert. The New Testament writings tower up to heaven amidst the Jewish writings which preceded, and the Christian which followed them, like a forest of Wellingtonias above the brushwood of the wilderness. If any one of our present gospels had been apocryphal, its value in literature as an external confirmatory witness would have been reckoned simply immeasurable. Canonicity seems to have extinguished the claim to credibility. The very qualities which caused a Gospel such as Mark's to find a place in the

canons are those which deprive it of the character of an independent testimony, and place it in the position of a writing requiring confirmation from without. There is no Gospel of Mark, however, among the Apocryphals. Few exercises would enable the ordinary reader better to appreciate our four Gospels than to read these pale mockeries of succeeding generations. The scene brightens when the age of imitation had ceased. The three volumes of Tertullian's works offer a rare insight for English readers into the thinking of the second and third centuries. The reader is at a loss almost on every page whether to give the palm to the good sense or to the wrong-headedness of Tertullian. This fiery African seems to have combined both qualities in equal proportions. His occasionally fanatical temper and tendency to mysticism have overshadowed his marvellous learning and ability, so that he scarcely receives his due honour in modern times. The treatise on the "Resurrection of the Flesh" is a perfect magazine of arguments in support of physical revival. The volume of "Arnobius" is now presented, we believe, for the first time during the present century in English dress. Here may be seen a fine example of the reciprocal contradictions of the Fathers. Tertullian teaches the immortality of the soul and the eternal misery of the lost. Arnobius expends his second book upon an argumentative and derisive exposure of the folly of the first doctrine, and on a solemn assertion of the baselessness of the second, affirming with Irenæus the literal destruction of the wicked in the torments of hell. The volume of Gregory Thaumaturgus, of Dionysius of Alexandria, and of the Syriac documents, jointly edited and translated by Dr. Roberts, Dr. Donaldson, and Mr. Pratten, bring us to the last issue. A very deep debt of gratitude is due to each of these gentlemen for their labours, which will long remain as a monument of their learning, industry, and genius.

Pink and White Tyranny. By Mrs. HARRIETT BEECHER STOWE. (Sampson Low, Son and Co.) If Mrs. Stowe contributes as largely to the emancipation of men from the wiles of silly women as she has done to the abolition of negro slavery, she will confer a great boon upon society. This book is at least a successful effort in that direction. John Seymour, the hero of the story, would at one time have willingly exchanged his lot for one of serfdom, and yet his position in the social scale was one to which few attain, and his conscience was void of offence towards God and man. The melancholy truth is that he was thrown into a flutter of excitement in some ungarded moment by the sudden emergence of a little sylvan form arrayed in pink and white, whose purity and ethereal loveliness he mistook in the innocence of his heart for that beauty which is a joy for ever. Naturally he wished to possess this treasure, and, as he had not only a manly form, but a handsome fortune, his suit was at once accepted, and a marriage was the result. Novel-readers should take note that this event is chronicled on page 9 or thereabouts. For once the old order is reversed; the hopes and fears of the lover, the waxing and waning of the maiden's passion, and so on, are dispensed with. By a bold stroke the thing is accomplished at the outset, and Mrs. Stowe has all the rest of the volume for reflection upon the result. Miss Lillie, or rather Mrs. John Seymour, was such a desperately worldly and heartless girl, that a clergyman of her acquaintance, one of the few who did not flatter her, said to her, "Miss Lillie, I see no chance for the 'salvation of your soul, unless it should please God to 'send the smallpox upon you; I think I shall pray for that'; to which she in all seriousness replied, 'Oh, horrors, don't! I'd rather never be saved.' Here was a problem for honest John Seymour to solve. How should he serve heaven, and yet keep his marriage vows to cherish and love this woman till death should part them. Fortunately for him, the revelation of her true character did not come upon him suddenly. Quite gradually, to his eyes, did the glitter disappear. Lillie's game was a deep one, and she must not show her hand. A hint or two now and then of what was in it might serve her purpose, but for the most part she was kindly deceptive, and simulated love and concern for her husband's happiness, just enough to gain her ends and prolong the illusion. But at last it came, and John Seymour, in his agony, wished only for death. His sister Grace was his good angel at this crisis. With her help he rallied, renewed his devotions to his unworthy wife, and lived long enough to wish for her continued companionship when death was near to sever them.

A Century of Scottish Life. Memorials and Recollections of Historical and remarkable Persons, with Illustrations of Caledonian Humour. By the Rev. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., &c. (Nimmo.) Dr. Rogers, we fancy, is a little of a wag as well as a wit. He gives a portrait of himself at the beginning of this work which looks rather grave and self-asserting; but there is a dash of humour in it at the same time. And the book is not unlike the portrait. It hints at grave and weighty enough matters now and then, although it is professedly humorous. He has gone over a well-reaped field and has gleaned a goodly handful of ears. He begins with a sketch of Scotch humour, which is defined as a scintillation of ideas rather than a trick of word-playing; then he gives a chapter of anecdotes, very funny and characteristic some of them; he follows that up with a lively sketch of the life of his father, who was a quiet Scotch parish minister in Fife; then he indites a spark-

ling account of some "Men I have Known"; and finishes with some account of Lowland and Highland Minstrels. It is needless to say that a good deal of the Scotch pride and the Scotch conceit finds expression here; but Dr. Rogers is too lively and knows his own position too well to allow himself to become tedious. He moves from one thing to another with a naïveté and well-bred lightness, such as marks the best after-dinner talk—such talk as we can fancy falling from a party in which Professor Wilson, Hogg, Lockhart, and Sydney Smith were the magnates. Some of Dr. Rogers's anecdotes are new to us. The following is good:—"An Irish gentleman, visiting a Scottish manor, was, in 'passing, struck by the charms of a girl in a milliner's 'shop. That he might have a closer view of her, he 'proposed to enter the shop and purchase a watch-ribbon. 'Hoot,' said the occupant of the manor, 'dinna waste your siller; let us go in and ask if she 'can gie us two sixpences for a shilling.'" When Scotchmen themselves ratify such an anecdote as true, Englishmen may well be pardoned for blaming them for a due share of stinginess. This, too, is capital:—"Principal Lee, of Edinburgh University, was much 'inclined to complain of his health and expatiate on 'his ailments. He was met one morning by the late 'Professor Robertson, who expressed a hope that he 'was well. 'Far from well,' said the Principal; 'I've 'had no sleep for a fortnight.' 'Ah, then, Principal,' 'said Dr. Robertson, 'you're getting better, for when 'last we met you had not slept for six weeks."

Little Sunshine's Holiday. By the Author of "John Halifax." (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) *The Cousin from India.* By GEORGINA M. CRAIK. (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) The author of "John Halifax" has entered into an arrangement with Messrs. Low and Son to write, edit, or translate a series of books for girls "of all ages from eight to eighteen," to be published at short intervals. The definition is not quite correct, by the way, and we are not at all sure that the first two volumes will not be read more largely by children under eight than between eight and eighteen. If they are to be progressive in character the worthy author and editor has made a fit beginning. It is to be feared, however, that little girls over eight years, who have begun to consider themselves big girls some years ago, will feel a motherly sort of interest in "Little Sunshine," and thereby omit to apply the excellent principle upon which that young lady acted to their own conduct. She had learned to obey and be content at the early age of three years, and hence she appears throughout a very happy, amusing and intelligent little miss. The story of her domestic adventures is told in very simple words, and we will answer for it that most children of five or six who read it or hear it read will be charmed by it, and we would fain hope edified as well. In the second story, "The Cousin from India," there is more varied interest and adventure. The four children who form the central group are rather more advanced in years; "the cousin" herself is a "turk" of the wildest description. Her arrival from India is expected with impatient curiosity by her three cousins in England, who speedily discover that the new importation is a little monster. Her Eastern training has made her, although a child in years, an adept in deception and mischief, and she contrives, by her daring schemes and precocious villainy, to infuse something of her own spirit into her innocent playmates. The influence of the wise and forbearing mother of the three children, and of the sweet and almost angelic disposition of the youngest boy—who is brought to a bed of pain, and ultimately death, by the thoughtlessness of this same Cousin Effie—work upon her heart, and she becomes softened and subdued. More of the tale we need not tell, but we will quote the closing words, which tell us that "she had touched heaven in 'loving Davie, and that love was not a thing lost even 'though Davie died. For, children, believe this; all 'things are possible,—all goodness, sweetness, unselfishness, patience, self-denial,—if love is at the bottom of 'a human heart."

A Treatise on the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons. By JOHN A. BRONDUS, D.D., LL.D., Professor in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Greenville, S.C. (London: James Nisbet and Co.) This is an excellent treatise; the result of a judgment naturally keen and practical, well tutored by experienced observation. It is by no means a dry compendium of a priori rules; it is so thoroughly human that a lay reader might find interest and instruction in it. It will not make a preacher; but it may teach him after what excellencies to aim, and what dangers to avoid. It is divided into four parts—"Materials of Preaching," "Arrangement of a Sermon," "Style," and "Delivery of Sermons." To this is added a supplementary part on "Conduct of Public Worship." We are glad to see that Dr. Brondus condemns with unmitigated severity the practice of accommodating texts. He lays down the nice rule that a text must always mean what it was in the writer's mind to say, and that preachers have no right to distort it to any other purpose. Of course this does not prohibit a preacher from educing from a text the general principle of which the text may be an individual or a special illustration, and so broadening its application. Dr. Brondus also condemns the practice of announcing two or three different possible meanings of a text, and giving each of them a practical bearing; he would have the preacher form an intelligent opinion

as to which is the meaning, and stick to that. It is only slovenliness in thinking or an indolent habit which can tolerate the practice of accommodation. Slovenliness and indolence are, however, so common, that it is humiliating to think how large a proportion of sermons preached on any one Sunday would be condemned by this canon. Dr. Brondus's remarks on "expository 'preaching" are also thoroughly good. In the hands of a good teacher, who would apply the principles laid down in this treatise to actual sermons read in the class, this book might be made very useful. It is, we may observe, a truly Baptist book; it has a ring about it which will delight many of the author's co-denominationalists in this country, and perhaps amuse those who are not. Some of the habits of American preachers in the pulpit must be peculiar if the following hints are needed. "If the preacher is seen or heard taking a 'chow of tobacco, or even a glass of water, while 'another prays after his sermon, or hunting up hymns 'while another prays upon it, we can hardly wonder 'that people are offended. Two ministers should not 'talk together during the singing, unless there is 'peculiar occasion for it."

Little Men. By the Author of "Little Women." (Low, Son, and Marston.) No one who has read "Little Women," will need any other recommendation of this little book. And yet it is not similar, perhaps for the very sufficient reason that a boy's life and training differ from a girl's. In "Little Women," Miss Alcott wrote as a girl (no offence) for girls and about girls. The reminiscences of girl life were probably vivid in her mind, and near to her heart, at the time of writing. In the present work Miss Alcott has to deal with a special philanthropic object, and admirably combines narrative with ethics. The "Little Men" who give the title to the book, are inmates of a model school kept by the same "Jo" and her husband, Mr. Bhaer, who contributed so much to the interest and humour of the former work. There is but one fault to find with the story: the scheme of juvenile discipline adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Bhaer is so marvellously perfect, both in its conception and as judged by its results, that the reader feels himself transported into the region of the ideal, and his mental comment as he reads is, "How charming if only it could be realised!" The master who compels his pupil to cane him, instead of caning his pupil, and thus overwhelms opposition, ought indeed to have something to show for his new method of training. Mrs. Bhaer is as a mother to all the boys; sympathises with and soothes them in their troubles, and systematically aids in the development of their moral nature by first of all trusting them and winning their love, then by a careful adaptation of means to ends in the ordering of her household. The book deserves to be widely read by old and young, and we are glad to think that, among books of the present day, Miss Alcott's circulate more widely than almost any other.

Songtide, and other Poems. By PHILIP BOURKE MARSTON. (Ellis and Green.) This is a volume of poems by an evident follower in the school of Rossetti and Morris and Swinburne. It contains much that is spontaneous, true, and natural, along with conceits and overwrought phrasing, by which simplicity, overdone, betrays conscious cunning. Mr. Marston has an original vein of poetry in him; but he has not the passionate fervour of Swinburne, which carries him along like a reckless rider when he is in the full swing of his creative impulse; nor the quaint, overfull thoughtfulness of Rossetti; nor the simple, garrulous, dreamy grace of Morris. But some of the poems are undoubtedly fine. He has made himself master of the sonnet form—one of the most perilous and artificial of poetic forms; and one, too, of the most wearisome in inadequate hands. Mr. Marston masters it, and makes it serve him. "Love and Hope," and "Love's Truce," are both marked by fine and studied workmanship; "On the Death of Rossini"—one of the longer poems—is very stately and finished; and "Out of Eden" is, in our idea, exquisite.

The Red River Expedition. By Captain G. L. HUGHES, Rifle Brigade. (Macmillan.) The Red River Settlement lies close to the Hudson's Bay Territory, near the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers. It seems to be inhabited by half-caste French people chiefly. In 1869 it was proposed, without any direct reference to the inhabitants themselves, to transfer it to the allegiance of Canada, and Mr. Macdougall, the governor, was sent formally to take possession. The half-castes, who had formed themselves into a military government of defence, under a man, Louis Riel, defied the Governor, and dared him to advance beyond a certain point. Neither Canada nor the Imperial Government could brook this presumption; and accordingly a detachment of soldiers was sent to quell the insurrection. They did soon quell it; so that Captain Hughes's account seems to lead a long way up to nothing; but events are to blame for this, and not him, for he has certainly written an interesting volume, which, besides, contains a deal of information.

Guesses at Truth by Two Brothers. (London: Macmillan.) These "guesses" by Augustus and Julius Charles Hare were perhaps overpraised at their first appearance; but they do not deserve the disregard into which they have latterly fallen. They always evince thoughtfulness and culture; and though the current of modern thought has swept far out of their channels, the meditative man will find pleasure in perusing them, and the student of philo-

sophy may yet find valuable and suggestive hints in them. We are glad to see a new edition of the "Guesses;" both series are here contained in one volume, convenient in size, compact in arrangement and clearly printed on a fair paper. Two portraits add to the value of the book, both from busts. That of Augustus is from Gibson; a pensive, graceful, even gracious face. Julius Hare's portrait is from Woolner's bust at Cambridge; the picture reminds us, as does the bust itself, of Hare's brother-in-law, the Rev. F. D. Maurice.

Miscellaneous.

There is now another seat vacant in Ireland. Mr. Leslie, the member for the county of Monaghan, having died suddenly on Monday at Glaslough.

Such is the demand for labour in the north, that Mr. Pease, M.P., has opened an office in the East of London for the engagement of persons desirous of migrating thither for employment.

The Corporation of London has commenced proceedings to test the rights of Lord Cowley as lord of the manor in reference to the recent enclosure of a portion of Epping Forest.

Richard Burke, the Fenian leader, on whose account Clerkenwell prison was blown up, is to be released on license upon the same terms as those granted to Bryan Dillon, namely, that he presents himself once yearly to a magistrate.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.—Notice has been given that all rates and taxes payable on the 5th of January last must be paid on or before the 20th of next month for persons to be placed on the ensuing register of voters.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—The Census of 1871 shows 503,986 children in Scotland between five and thirteen years of age stated in the householders' schedule to be receiving education—that is to say, one in 6.66 of the total population. The children constituting this number are those who were at least five years of age and not more than twelve at their last birthday.

A SAD ACCIDENT.—The cricket-ground of Harrow School was the scene of a sad and fatal accident on Saturday. The eldest son of Mr. G. E. Cottrell, an old Harrovian, was playing in a game, and for the time "standing umpire." Suddenly a ball was hit hard to "square leg" and struck him on the side of the head below the ear. Death followed almost immediately.

A CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION.—A select committee of the House of Commons on Thursday passed the preamble of a bill for creating a great central Metropolitan Railway Terminus between the Holborn Viaduct and the Farringdon-road Station. The South-Eastern, Chatham and Dover, South-Western, Great Western, London and North-Western, Midland, Great Northern, and Great Eastern Companies are all interested in this project.

INFANTICIDE.—At an inquest on Thursday night on the body of a newly-born child which was found inside the gate of a lady's residence at Paddington, Dr. Lankester remarked that over 300 children were found in the streets of London every year. Registration of births ought to be made compulsory: its absence gave every facility for making away with children, because a non-registered child could be buried or thrown away, as in this case, with impunity. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.—At the meeting on Friday of the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes a dividend was declared at the rate of 4½ per cent., which will absorb 4,884l., and leave 593l., thus raising the guarantee fund to 5,036l. During the past year the rate of mortality in the buildings of the association has been under 17 per 1,000, while that of the metropolis generally has been 24 per 1,000. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided at the meeting. Earl Harrowby observed that the undertaking had not turned out a very profitable speculation, and must be looked on rather as a work of benevolence.

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.—At a meeting of the officers, held at 47, Ann-street, Birmingham, June 22, it was announced that at the Breconshire Association of Baptist Churches, representing nearly 3,000 communicants, the following resolution was passed:—"That this association feels greatly dissatisfied with the present Education Act, and feels convinced that no system of National Education can possibly meet the wants of the people except it be free, compulsory, and unsectarian; and as the National Education League aims at the establishment of such a system, this conference desires to express its hearty sympathy with its objects and principles, and pledges itself to render it all the aid within its power." A meeting was held at Rushden on the 15th, attended by Mr. Francis Adams, as a deputation from the central office. Resolutions were passed approving the principles of the League, and urging the formation of a local branch.

NEW ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—On Wednesday the Queen opened the new St. Thomas's Hospital, of which she laid the foundation-stone three years ago. This hospital stands on the Albert Embankment, on the Surrey side of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament. It consists of several blocks of buildings, separated by open spaces, and altogether there is room for 600 beds. The cost of erection has been 332,000l. There was a great and fashionable assemblage at the hospital on Wednesday. The National Anthem having been sung, an address was handed to the Queen on behalf of the

president, treasurer, and governors of the hospital. A written reply was handed to the treasurer, the Queen remarking that she was extremely pleased at being present at the opening of the hospital. A procession was then formed, and the Queen passed up the staircase and named two of the wards respectively the "Victoria" ward and the "Albert" ward. Then passing down the dais again the Archbishop of Canterbury offered up a prayer, followed by the Lord's Prayer, in which all joined. A hymn, written for the occasion, was sung to a chorale composed by the late Prince Consort. The Queen then said, "I declare this Royal Hospital now open." Mr. Francis Hicks, the treasurer, was then called to the dais and was knighted. The Old Hundredth Psalm and the Benediction concluded the interesting ceremony.

NEWS OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.—The following interesting particulars regarding Dr. Livingstone are contained in letters received on Monday morning from Dr. Kirk by Miss Livingstone, daughter of the celebrated traveller, dated Zanzibar, April 30, 1871:—"I will tell you that by the last news of the Arabs he had gone to a place called Manema, which is on the other side of Tanganyika Lake; but this place you will not find on any map. At Ujiji he made friends with some Arabs, who, I hear, have been very kind to him, and in their company visited Manema, which is about 200 miles west of the lake, and it they must have crossed in punts or canoes, or what we call dhow. He and his Arab friends got to Manema, and they (the Arabs) made a good business in ivory. I suppose the doctor did what he went for, and will tell us some day what he saw; but on his way back he got—well, he seems to have been hard up, as I should have said, when out of cash, and detained for remittances. Luckily the means were at hand, and the man I sent to Ujiji to help him has sent off all he needs, and there will still be a good store on his return to Ujiji. The expense and loss in getting things so far into a savage land are great, and at cholera time it was well we got anything up at all, so that he will never receive the whole of what I sent and Mr. — paid for. A second supply has been forwarded, but I shan't be sorry if the doctor passes it on the way. I should say the parcel of clothing and boots were sent off long ago."—*North British Daily Mail*.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. GROTE.—The remains of the late Mr. Grote, the distinguished historian, were on Saturday deposited in Westminster Abbey. The spot selected for the grave was in Poets' Corner, at the foot of the monument to Garrick, and close to those of Camden, the historian, and Dr. Johnson. The pall-bearers were Earl Granville, Lord Overstone, Lord Romilly, Earl Stanhope, Lord Belper, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. J. S. Mill, and Professor Jowett, Master of Balliol. The mourners comprised, among several distinguished persons, some members of the historian's family, Mr. S. Cave, M.P., Dr. W. Smith, Dr. de Mussey, Mr. Haywood, Q.C., Mr. Bain, Mr. Murray, Mr. Wickings Smith, and Mr. Reeve. Many other distinguished public men were present. Dean Stanley read the service. The memorial requesting that the body might be interred in the Abbey bore the undermentioned signatures:—Devonshire, Granville, Stanhope, Henry Holland, H. d'Orleans, Duc d'Aumale, Cleveland, Derby, Romilly, Hatherley, S. H. Walpole, W. Smith, Salisbury, Henry Reeve, Edward Sabine, F.R.S., Robert Lowe. In accordance with Mr. Grote's recorded wish, his skull has been opened by Dr. Marshall, Professor of Anatomy in the University College. The brain was extracted, and after a cast was taken of it, a minute analysis of its parts was made.

DEATH OF A LEICESTER WORTHY.—Our obituary of last week recorded the demise of Henry Freeman Coleman, Esq., at a good old age, at his house, near Evington. He was one of the representatives of a past generation of Liberal county gentlemen—a class, we regret to say, no longer maintained in this district. Mr. Coleman belonged to the band of Whig gentry, who, at the time of the passing of the Reform Bill, and the election of the late Messrs. Philipps and Paget as members for the county, manfully came to the front, and gave to the Liberal cause all the weight of their high personal character and extensive local influence. Mr. Coleman was a consistent, firm, and steady friend to the cause of civil and religious liberty throughout a long and honourable life; never flinching in the hour of trial, and being always ready to show himself openly in support of all public movements of which he approved; his name frequently appearing as the chairman at public meetings, at intervals, until the infirmities of age prevented him from being publicly useful. Though deeply interested in agriculture, he was a decided free-trader; and though allied in many ways to upholders of the Church of England, he manifested a noble and undeviating adhesion to principle by remaining a member of the Independent denomination to the close of his days. As long, therefore, as his memory lives in the minds of survivors, who knew and appreciated his high excellence and worth of character, it will be cherished with esteem and respect. Mr. Coleman held the office of High Sheriff of this county in 1848.—*Leicester Chronicle*.

THE CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE SOCIETY held a conference on Friday at the Victoria Institute under the presidency of the Earl of Harrowby, at which the following resolutions were adopted:—"That it is desirable to carry out the work of the society; first, by continuing lectures to the higher classes, to be delivered by theologians, and also by eminent men

of science; secondly, by extending the lectures to the lower classes; thirdly, by classes and auxiliary associations similar to those already existing; fourthly, by meetings and other agencies calculated to make the society known throughout the country; and, fifthly, by forming a regular list of members and inviting regular subscriptions, as in the case of great religious societies." The Bishop of Gloucester, in moving one of the resolutions, said it had been objected that the lectures recently delivered at St. George's Hall were not Christian evidence, but it should be remembered that the lectures were intended to be introductory, and, once having gained a hearing from the public, they could afford to narrow their line of argument. If the bishop said, they stopped the first intelligent man they met in the street and asked him if he was a Christian, he would reply he was, according to the Bible, and that was the substratum of all arguments. But then would arise the question, Why did he believe the Bible? and if the society could answer that satisfactorily they would be doing a vast deal of good. There were philosophers who had dissevered themselves from the teaching of the Book of Life, and such separation had disquieted the consciences of many, and created a feeling that there might be elements of truth in such scepticism; and from such conviction not a few might drift into Darwinism unless they were shown the truth of the evidence of the Bible.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL.

—The 113th annual examination of the children of this excellent and deserving institution took place on Thursday, in the presence of a number of its friends and supporters, and under the presidency, in the morning, of Mr. John Macgregor, M.A., and in the evening of Mr. Charles John Leaf. Amongst the friends of the charity present were the Rev. Dr. Raleigh, the Rev. J. Nunn, the Rev. J. Matheson, Mr. C. Tyler, &c. The children were put through a searching examination in the Scriptures, history, geography, domestic economy, grammar, and mental arithmetic, and acquitted themselves most creditably; the dry part of the proceedings being enlivened by some excellent singing on the part of the pupils. Amongst the prizes were silver medals and money, awarded to Thomas Davis, thirteen years of age, and Mary Isaac, the best boy and girl in the school, and others of sums of money to the boy and girl who had most aptly illustrated by their conduct during the past year the precept of brotherly love and charity. These awards are all made by the suffrages of the upper divisions of the school, with the approval of the master and mistress and the house committee. Prizes and certificates were also given to many other boys and girls for proficiency in their studies and for good conduct. The chairman, on each occasion, accompanied the distribution with some excellent advice to the children, who give every promise to do credit in after life to the education and training they are receiving. At the conclusion of the business part of the programme in the morning, a *déjeuner* was partaken of, and some pertinent speeches delivered. The Chairman, Mr. Macgregor, of Rob Roy celebrity, in proposing prosperity to the institution, said that they had seen enough that day to judge for themselves of the great and good work it was doing. In giving the health of the master, mistresses, and examiners, Mr. Tyler complimented them on the excellent results of their exertions. That institution was, as its name implied, truly a "working" one, everybody connected with it, from the highest to the lowest, labouring hard for its success. A similar compliment was paid to the matron, Miss Rowbotham, whose able management was dilated upon. The list of subscriptions announced was a regrettably short one, the majority of the company evidently preferring to send cheques privately to having their generosity announced on the occasion. Any one taking an interest in such undertakings will be well repaid by a visit to the institution, facility for which may be readily obtained on application to the indefatigable secretary, Mr. Joseph Soul.

THE COBDEN CLUB.—The annual dinner of the Cobden Club took place on Saturday, at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich. Earl Granville, who presided, in proposing "Prosperity to the Cobden Club," reviewed at some length the career of Mr. Cobden, and the work done by him, and referred especially to the grief and pain the events of the last year would have occasioned him:—

I do not believe there is a single thing which has occurred, or is likely to occur, which can weaken in us the conviction how right, how wise, and how good he was. (Cheers.) It is not for me to speak of the events of the war which has just closed, or to try to describe the causes which led to it; but I can say that it is to me a feeling of inexpressible relief that I am now standing between two gentlemen, one representing that great nation France, the other that great nation Germany, and that they are at peace instead of being at strife, as they were a short time ago. (Cheers.) Perhaps I may be now allowed to say something with regard to ourselves, and certain morals which I think we can draw. (Hear, hear.) I think it was Cobden who stated that upon the whole he thought we were the most combative race in existence. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) I entirely share that opinion. (Renewed laughter.) I think we show it in almost every way. There is something in our nature which requires the stimulus of an obstacle. Whether it is competition in commerce, or in any other good thing, we require that stimulus before we put out one-half of our power. (Hear, hear.) I would instance it in another respect—the marvellous power of grumbling which we possess. (A laugh.) By our knowledge of the art, and by our continuous practice, we have obtained nearly all the good things which belong to the nation. (Cheers.)

His lordship also spoke at some length of the diffi-

culty the Government had had in maintaining our neutrality. While paying a high tribute to M. Thiers, he regretted the evident tendency in France to recede from the Cobden Treaty of Commerce. While there were at present so many things which would have pained Mr. Cobden, there was one thing which would have cheered him—the new treaty with America, which formed the subject of the noble earl's concluding remarks. Amongst the other speakers were the Marquis of Ripon, Lord Acton, Sir Louis Mallet, M. Arles Dufour, Herr George Bunsen, and Mr. Hugh McCulloch. The three last-mentioned gentlemen, as foreign guests, responded for France, Germany, and the United States.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE GRAVE OF RICHARD COBDEN in West Lavington Churchyard was made on Saturday by a party of between twenty and thirty, including some ladies. The party was headed by Mr. Richard Parker, an old member of one of the London branches of the Anti-Corn Law League, Mr. Washington Lyon, and Mr. Robert White. Later in the day they assembled at the Angel Hotel, in Midhurst, where commemorative speeches were made.

Gleanings.

M. Thiers has the peculiar faculty of both going to sleep and waking when he pleases.

An American paper has the following:—"London has smallpox. Vaccinate the cable."

Mlle. Nilsson has received about 55,000*l.* as the result of her musical tour in the United States.

Chinese cucumbers are said to grow from five to eight feet in length, and from six to nine inches in diameter.

The opening of the railway line from Blackfriars to the Mansion House station is to take place on Saturday next.

The fruit crop (says the *Gardener's Magazine*), has been thinned to a terrible extent by the ravages of the small grubs which always infest the fruit trees at this season of the year.

Somebody has written a book entitled, "What shall my son be?" Upon which some one replies, "If the boy is as bad as the book, the chances are that he will be hanged."

A gentleman, of Sullivan county, Md., being fined for contempt of court the other day, quietly requested the judge "to charge the amount and wait till harvest for the money."

Southey makes the shrewd remark that a man's character may be judged of even more surely by the letters which his friends address to him than by those which he wrote himself.

Some of our readers may be interested to know that at the recent Garden party, the Princes and the most fashionable gentlemen wore dark blue frock coats with gilt buttons.

According to the Midland Farmers' Club, Mr. J. R. McClean, C.E., M.P., has converted "1,000 acres of the howling wilderness of Cannock Chase into a fruitful place" by means of the steam plough.

The following advertisement appears in the *Record*:—"A Country Gentleman (without family), who preaches the doctrines of grace fully, desires a temporary exchange of Parish with a real brother, similarly dealt with by God.—Address, — Street, London, E.C."

It is related of a colporteur sent out in the palmy days of colportage by the American Tract Society, that he asked a rough Arkansan what denomination a certain dilapidated-looking meeting-house belonged to. "Wa'al, stranger," was the reply, "she wur a Hard-Shell Baptist, but they don't run her now."—*Harper's*.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?—We are very glad to learn that the marriage of Mr. Rughoonathdas Madhowsdas, a Kupola Bunia merchant, of Bombay, with Dhuncoorbai, the daughter of Shet Gudhurdas Mohandas, and the widow of Luchmihand Dhurumsey, was celebrated at Chinchpoojy.—*Indian Mail*.

LETTING OUT THE TRUTH.—An old Scotch lady was told that her minister used notes. She disbelieved it. Said one, "Go into the gallery and see." She did so, and saw the written sermon. After the luckless preacher had concluded his reading on the fourth page, he said, "But I will not enlarge." The old woman cried from her lofty position, "Ye canna, ye canna! for yer paper's give out."

IS IT CONCLUSIVE?—The *Honolulu Advertiser* is responsible for the statement that a harpoon was found in a recently captured whale, in the arctic seas on the western side of the continent, that was known to belong to a ship at that time cruising in the same seas on the opposite side of the continent. The supposition is that the whale passed from one open sea to another *via* the pole; and he must have found open water, for whales must occasionally come to the surface and blow.

QUICK WORK.—The *American Christian Union* tells a story of a drunken man who was converted on Friday, baptized on Saturday, received the Lord's Supper on Sunday, got drunk on Monday, and was turned out of the church on Tuesday! His comment upon these "double quick" ecclesiastical experiences was worthy of a man of more sobriety—"Anyhow, I was just as good when they turned me out as when they took me in."

NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.—A *savant* has discovered with the microscope that when we pour milk into a cup of tea, the albumen of the milk and the tannin of the tea instantly unite and form leather,

or minute flakes of the very same compound which is produced in the texture of tanned hides, and which makes it leather as distinguished from the original skin. He consequently estimates that in the course of a year a tea-drinker of average capacity imbibes enough leather to make a pair of shoes.

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.—The churchwarden of a village church had been very industrious in selling a new hymn-book, costing eighteenpence. The minister, one Sunday, just before dismissing the congregation, rose and said, "All you who have children to baptize will please present them next Sabbath." The churchwarden, who was a little deaf, having an eye to selling his books, and supposing his pastor had been referring to them, immediately jumped up and shouted, "And all you who haven't any can get as many as you want, by calling on me, at eighteenpence each."

WHAT IS FAME?—After Susan B. Anthony lectured at Ripton, Wis., she wanted some recreation and amusement, so she took a walk on Sunday around the graveyard there. While she was enjoying the literature of a tombstone, she heard a lot of little boys saying, "That's her," and she thought, "Such is fame." Congratulating herself that even the children of the land knew her, she was accosted by an urchin, who said: "Say, ain't you the old woman that walks up the wire on the circus tent to-morrow?"

NOTICE.—All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage stamps.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

GASQUOINE.—June 21, at Beechfield, Oswestry, the wife of Thomas Gasquoin, B.A., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

CONDOR—BAINES.—On Tuesday, June 27, at Lower Clapton Congregational Church, London, by the Rev. Geo. Wm. Conder, the Rev. Eustace Rogers Conder, M.A., minister of East Parade Chapel, Leeds, to Anne Catherine, second daughter of Edward Baines, Esq., M.P., Headingley Lodge, Leeds. No cards.

DEATHS.

STOCK.—June 17, at Holloway, Mary, daughter of the late Robert Stock, Esq., of Kentish-town.

STUART.—June 20, at Laurel Bank, Upper Sydenham, Beatrice, the infant daughter of Harry and Adah Stuart, aged 4 weeks; also, at the same place, on June 22, Adah, the wife of Harry Stuart, Esq., and youngest daughter of George J. Cockerell, Esq., of Sydenham, aged 22 years.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, June 21.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Notes issued | £40,652,740 | Government Debt | £11,015,104 |
| | | Other Securities | 3,984,906 |
| | | Gold Coin & Bullion | 25,652,740 |
| | | Silver Bullion | |
| | £40,652,740 | | £40,652,740 |

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Proprietor's Capital | £14,553,000 | Government Securities | £12,089,490 |
| Reserve | 3,110,146 | Other Securities | 16,816,887 |
| Public Deposits | 10,246,647 | Notes | 17,106,210 |
| Other Deposits | 19,257,287 | Gold & Silver Coin | 755,537 |
| Seven Day and other Bills | 500,944 | | |
| | £47,668,124 | | £47,668,124 |

June 22, 1871.

GEO. FORBES, Chief Cashier.

BREAKFAST.—EPPE'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoas, Mr. Eppe has provided our breakfast-tables with a delicately-flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills.—Civil Service Gazette. Made simply with Boiling Water or Milk. Each packet is labelled—"James Eppe & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." Also, makers of Eppe's Cacaoine, a very thin beverage for evening use.

HOW TO DYE.—Silk, Wool, Feathers, Ribbons, &c., in ten minutes, without soiling the hands. Use Judson's Simple Dyes, eighteen colours, 6d. each, with full instructions supplied. Of all chemists. The *Family Herald*, 3rd September, says, "A very slight acquaintance with Judson's dyes will render their application clear to all."

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—FLATULENCY, NAUSEA, INDIGESTION.—Nothing depresses the mind more rapidly, or wears out the body much faster, than a stomach incapable of fully digesting its food. Indigestion renders life so miserable that from it springs most of the suicides which daily shock our nerves. If Holloway's Pills be taken regularly for a time, and his Ointment be twice daily rubbed over the digestive organs, these melancholy symptoms will soon cease, and pleasurable thoughts succeed the dismal forebodings engendered by dyspepsia which drives the sufferer to misery and despair. Holloway's priceless preparations, by briskly acting on the liver and other internal organs, have long stood prominently forward for the wonderful cures they have effected.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, June 26.

The show of English wheat on the stands was small this morning, but we have received abundant supplies from abroad of all descriptions of grain during the past week. We had a quiet trade, at the prices of this day week, for English wheat. Foreign wheat also made former prices, but the business was chiefly in retail. The flour trade was inactive, and prices were barely supported. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were unaltered in value. Barley of all descriptions sold slowly, at previous quotations. Of oats we have further heavy arrivals, and the trade is depressed, especially for the inferior qualities. Heavy oats supported previous values, the general runs, however, were 6d. per quarter lower.

At the ports of call we have few fresh arrivals, and prices of cargoes of wheat and maize remained the same.

CURRENT PRICES.

| Per Qr. | | Per Qr. | |
|----------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| s. | s. | s. | s. |
| WHEAT— | | | |
| Essex and Kent, red. | — to — | FRAS— | |
| Ditto new. | 51 to 57 | Grey | 37 to 40 |
| White | — | Maple | 43 46 |
| " new | 56 61 | White | 38 42 |
| Foreign red .. | 52 56 | Boilers | 38 42 |
| " white | 55 58 | Foreign | 38 40 |
| BARLEY— | | | |
| English malting | 31 34 | RYE | 36 38 |
| Chevalier | 36 42 | OATS— | |
| Distilling | 35 39 | English Feed .. | 23 26 |
| Foreign | 34 37 | " potato | 27 35 |
| MALT— | | | |
| Pale | — | Scotch feed .. | — |
| Chevalier | — | " potato | — |
| Brown | 49 55 | Irish Black .. | 19 21 |
| BEANS— | | " White | 21 24 |
| Ticks | 37 38 | Foreign feed .. | — |
| Harrow | 39 43 | FLOUR— | |
| Small | — | Town made .. | 47 50 |
| Egyptian | 37 38 | Best country .. | — |
| | | households .. | 40 42 |
| | | Norfolk & Suffolk | 38 39 |

BREAD, Saturday, June 24.—The prices in the Metropolitan are, for Wheat Bread, per 4 lbs. loaf, 7d. to 8d.; Household Bread, 6d. to 7d.

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, June 26.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 21,226 head. In the corresponding week in 1870 we received 8,376; in 1869, 12,863; in 1868, 6,146; and in 1867, 9,057 head. The cattle trade to-day has been characterised by an increased amount of firmness. The supplies of beasts have been moderate from our own grazing districts. A few Lincolnshire beasts in fair condition have been offered, and Norfolk has also forwarded a good supply, but the receipts from Scotland have been limited. Foreign stock has been well represented so far as numbers are concerned, but the condition has not been prime. Owing to the high prices demanded business has been restricted. The extreme quotation for the best Scots and crosses has been 5*s.* 10*d.* to 6*s.* per 8lbs., being an advance of 4*d.* per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire we received about 1,300 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England about 120 shorthorns; from Scotland 50 Scots and crosses. The market has been less extensively supplied with sheep, but the quality has been good. A full average business has been transacted, and 4*d.* per 8lbs. more money has been obtained. For the best Down and half-breds 6*s.* 4*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* per 8lbs. Lambs have been in more request, at from 6*s.* to 7*s.* 4*d.* per 8lbs. For calves the demand has been to a moderate extent, at previous quotations. Pigs have been quiet, on former terms.

| Per 8lbs., to sink the offal. | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| s. | d. | s. | d. |
| Inf. coarse beasts | 3 10 to 4 10 | Pr. coarse woolled | 5 10 6 2 |
| Second quality | 5 0 5 4 | Pr. Southdown | 4 4 to 4 8 |
| Prime large oxen | 5 4 5 8 | 1ge. coarse calves | 3 8 4 4 |
| Prime Scots | 5 10 6 0 | Prime small | 5 0 5 8 |
| Coarse inf. sheep | 4 2 4 6 | Large hogs | 3 6 4 0 |
| Second quality | 4 6 5 0 | Neat sm. porkers | 4 2 4 10 |

Lamb, 6*s.* to 7*s.* 0*d.*, and Quarter old store pigs, 20*s.* to 26*s.* each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, June 26.—Moderate supplies of meat have been on offer. The trade has been firm, at very full prices. The import into London last week consisted of 10 packages from Hamburg, and 1 from Harlingen.

| Per 8lbs. by the carcass. | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| s. | d. | s. | d. |
| Inferior beef | 3 8 to 4 0 | Middling do. | 4 4 to 4 8 |
| Middling do. | 4 2 4 6 | Prime do. | 5 8 6 4 |
| Prime large do. | 4 10 5 4 | Large pork | 3 8 4 4 |
| Prime small do. | 5 4 5 8 | Small do. | 4 8 5 0 |
| Veal | 5 0 5 8 | Lamb | 6 0 7 0 |
| Inferior Mutton | 4 0 4 6 | | |

PROVISIONS, Monday, June 26.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 621 firkins butter and 4,032 bales bacon, and from foreign ports 27,723 packages butter, and 1,897 bales and 200 boxes bacon. In Irish butter there is scarcely anything doing, foreign being so much cheaper. Normandy and Jersey declined about 4*s.* per cwt.; best Dutch without change, 10*s.* to 10*s.* 8*d.* The bacon market ruled slow, and with the exception of finest Waterford sizeable prices were 1*s.* to 2*s.* lower; best Hamburg declined 2*s.* per cwt.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Friday, June 23.—Business transactions have been much impeded by the untoward weather of the last few days, and this has caused great loss in the various articles of fruit in the foreign trade, which now include grapes, strawberries, cherries, apricots, and the usual list of vegetables. Hothouse fruit is amply supplied, and is of good quality, but the general bulk of peaches and nectarines is small.

HOPS.—BOROUGH, Monday, June 26.—During the past week there has been no material alteration in our market; to-day, however, the unfavourable character of the reports from the plantations has caused a considerable increase of business at enhanced rates. The blight has progressed considerably during the past few days, and at the present time the plantations are generally infested with vermin, and in many grounds have entirely given up. Advice from the continent report no improvement. Mid and East Kents, 2*l.* 16*s.*, 4*l.* 4*s.* to 7*l.* 7*s.*; West of Kent, 2*l.* 14*s.*, 3*l.* 15*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*; Sussex, 2*l.* 10*s.*, 3*l.* 5*s.*, to 4*l.*; Farnham and country, 3*l.* 15*s.*, 4*l.* 15*s.*, to 5*l.* 12*s.*; Olds, 1*l.* 11*s.*, to 1*l.* 15*s.*

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, June 26.—The market has been well supplied with potatoes. The trade has been quiet at our quotations. The import into London last week consisted of 2,610 boxes from Rotterdam, 307 Dunkirk, 562 Harfleur, and 5 4 boxes from Lisbon. Flukes old, 50*s.* to 80*s.* per ton; Regents, 50*s.* to 90*s.* per ton; Rocks, 40*s.* to 55*s.* per ton; Kidneys new, 9*s.* to 12*s.* per cwt.; Jerseys, 8*s.* to 10*s.* per cwt.; French, 6*s.* to 7*s.* per cwt.

SEED, Monday, June 26.—English Cloverseed remains nominally the same as previously. Fine American met some inquiry, and was fully as dear. White samples are held too high for buyers. The best qualities of trefoil met some inquiry, and such was held firmly at previous values. White mustardseed sold in small lots, at the extreme rates of last week; few samples of brown are offering. Fine qualities would find buyers at fair rates. English rapeseed was quite as high, but taken off in very small lots, the buyers fearing to have a stock on hand at the present high values for this article. Foreign tares for feeding purposes were placed at quite as much money.

WOOL, Monday, June 26.—A firm tone has pervaded the wool market; more disposition has been shown to operate, and the value of all qualities has been firmly maintained.

OIL, Monday, June 26.—Lined oil has been steady. Rape has been in moderate request, at full prices. Other oils have changed hands quietly.

TALLOW, Monday, June 26.—The market has been firm. Y.C., 43s. 9d. and 43s. 9d. per cwt. on the spot. Town tallow, 42s. 6d. net cash.

COAL, Monday, June 26.—Market heavy, at last day's rates. Hetton's 18s. 3d.; Hetton's South, 18s. 3d.; Hetton's Lyons, 15s. 3d.; Harton, 15s. 3d.; Haswell, 18s. 6d.; Hartlepool (original), 18s. 6d.; Hartlepool, 17s.; Heugh Hall, 16s. 9d.; Kelloe, 16s. 6d.; Kelloe South, 16s. 9d.; Lambtons, 18s.; Eden Main, 16s.; Holywell Main, 17s.; Hartley's, 16s. 6d. Ships fresh arrived, 53, ships left from last day, 6—total 59. Ships at sea, 10.

Advertisements.

A LADY of great experience desires a SITUATION as ASSISTANT to a Mother in the TRAINING and Management of YOUNG CHILDREN. Would undertake the entire charge if required. Has filled a similar situation for some years.—Address, A. B., Post-office, Rodborough, near Stroud, Gloucestershire.

GOVERNESS.—A YOUNG LADY desires a SITUATION in a family where the children are young. She is competent to impart a good English education, with French, Music, Singing, and Drawing.—Address, S. S., Post-office, Colchester.

A MINISTERIAL STUDENT (Congregational), now in London during the Vacation, desires to SUPPLY OCCASIONAL VACANCIES.—Address, L. M. N., "Nonconformist" Office, 18, Bouverie-street, E.C.

WANTED, an ASSISTANT in a GENTLEMAN'S SCHOOL, to take general work. A member of a Christian Church, and of some experience. Age, not less than 24. Salary, £50.—Apply, B. B., Boston Spa, Yorkshire.

GROCERY and CORN BUSINESS.—In a Small Town in the Eastern Counties, 23 Miles from London, TO BE DISPOSED OF, in consequence of the DEATH of the PROPRIETOR, a Genuine Grocery and Corn Business. Stock, £500. Fixtures, about £100. For further particulars apply to X. Y. Z., Messrs. George Brettell and Co., 119, Wood-street, Cheapside, London.

FREEHOLD CHAPEL, to be LET or SOLD, at Bow-common, E.—Apply to Mr. Barlow, Surveyor, 2A, Granville-place, Portman-square, W.

IRON CHURCH and BUILDING-GROUND FOR SALE, together or separately, situated in the south end of High-street, Croydon. The church, which accommodates 300 persons, is fitted up with seats, pulpit, vestry, &c., complete, and is in good repair. The plot of ground is in a commanding position, being a corner site, having a frontage to the main road of 36ft., and a side frontage of about 73ft. For particulars apply to Mr. J. Theodore Barker, Architect, Wellesley-road, Croydon; or to Messrs. Cowdell and Grundy, Solicitors, No. 26, Budge-row, Cannon-street, E.C.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.

CANDIDATES desiring ADMISSION as STUDENTS for the MINISTRY at the commencement of the NEXT SESSION, in SEPTEMBER, are reminded that their applications and testimonials should be sent in not later than the month of July.

All necessary information may be obtained from the undersigned, at the College, New Finchley-road, Hampstead, N.W.]

W. FARRER, LL.B., Secretary.

HEATH-STREET CHAPEL, HAMPSTEAD.

SERVICES in commemoration of the TENTH ANNIVERSARY will be held (D.V.) on THURSDAY, July 6th, 1871. The Rev. ALEXANDER RALEIGH, D.D., will Preach in the Morning; Service at Twelve o'clock. The Rev. J. P. CHOWN, of Bradford, in the Evening; Service at Seven o'clock. The Devotional Services will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. BROCK and the Rev. JOHN MATHESON, M.A.

Collections will be made after each service.

A Cold Collation will be provided in the Schoolroom at Two o'clock; and afterwards a Report of the work and progress of the Congregation will be given by Rev. W. Brock, jun., the pastor; and Addresses delivered by Revs. Joshua C. Harrison, J. Nunn, S. H. Booth, and other friends.

MEAD HOUSE, BIGGLESWADE.

PUPILS REASSEMBLE on TUESDAY, July 25th.

FRED. W. CONQUEST, B.A.

HEATHFIELD HOUSE.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG GENTLEMEN, PARKSTONE, midway between Poole and Bournemouth.

This Establishment, conducted by Rev. WALTER GILL, & by competent Masters, will REOPEN (D.V.) AUGUST

Terms moderate. References to Parents of Pupils. Prospectus on application.

THE NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, WAKEFIELD. Principal—Rev. JAMES BEWGLASS, M.A., LL.D., M.R.I.A.

The above School receives, in addition to the Sons of Ministers, a limited number of the Sons of Laymen, who are carefully instructed in all the branches of a Sound Classical, Mathematical, and Commercial Education, and are prepared for any department of business, or for entrance at the Universities.

The School will REOPEN, after the Midsummer Vacation, on FRIDAY, 4th of August, 1871.

Application for the admission of Pupils to be addressed to the Principal.

THE JUBILEE YEAR

The Rev. THOMAS TOLLER'S
MINISTRY at KETTERING.

The Independent Church and Congregation at Kettering, over which the Rev. Thomas Toller has been Pastor for fifty years, have come to the unanimous resolution to present him with a TESTIMONIAL in this his Jubilee Year, which it is thought should take the form of a free-will offering in money.

As, no doubt, many of Mr. Toller's friends and former hearers, now living at a distance, may be desirous of joining in this mark of esteem, the Committee who have been appointed to carry out the object have thought it due to non-resident friends that they should be made acquainted with the determination of the Church and Congregation.

It is intended to present the TESTIMONIAL on the 19th July next. The Rev. Thomas Binney has kindly promised to preach at Two p.m., and at Five o'clock a Public Meeting will be held for the presentation of the Testimonial.

Contributions may be forwarded to either of the following Gentlemen:—

Mr. WADDINGTON,
Mr. STOCKBURN,
Mr. COCKER,
Mr. GOOSEY,
Deacons.

Or to Mr. John Wallis, the Treasurer.

THE CASTLE HALL SCHOOL, NORTHAMPTON.

Conducted by Mrs. THORPE (Widow of the late Rev. T. M. Thorpe), assisted by Masters and French and English Resident Governesses.

Prospectuses forwarded on application.

The SCHOOL will REOPEN on SATURDAY, July 29th.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX.

HEAD MASTER—

RICHARD F. WEYMOUTH, Esq., D. Lit. and M.A., Fellow of Univ. Coll., Lond.; Member of the Council of the Philological Society, &c., &c.

SECOND MASTER—

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